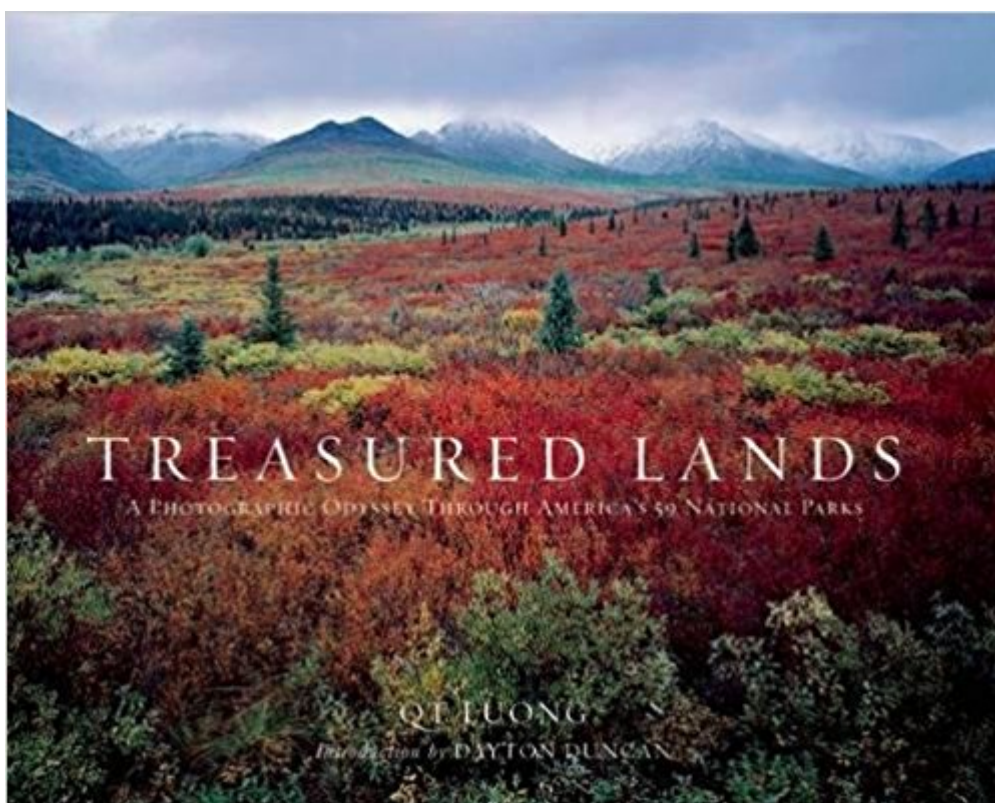


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Treasured Lands: A Photographic Odyssey Through America's National Parks



Synopsis

Beautiful, most complete visual tour of all 59 US National Parks in a coffee-table book, with location notes for each photograph. Winner of 6 national book awards. It is said that a photograph helped launch the national parks. After Congress viewed photos of Yosemite, President Lincoln was moved to sign a bill that paved the way for the U.S. National Park Service, which was founded in 1916 and is now celebrating its centennial. In *Treasured Lands: A Photographic Odyssey Through America's National Parks*, photographer QT Luong pays tribute to the millions of acres of protected wilderness in our country's 59 national parks. Luong, who is featured in Ken Burns's and Dayton Duncan's documentary *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, is the most prolific and versatile photographer working in the national parks and the only one to have made large-format photographs in each of them. In an odyssey that spanned more than 20 years and 300 visits, Luong focused his lenses on iconic landscapes and rarely seen remote views, presenting his journey in this sumptuous array of more than 500 breathtaking images. Accompanying the collection of scenic masterpieces is a guide that includes maps of each park, as well as extended captions that detail where and how the photographs were made. Designed to inspire visitors to connect with the parks and invite photographers to re-create these landscapes, the guide also provides anecdotal observations that give context to the pictures and convey the sheer scope of Luong's extraordinary odyssey. The guide is also available as a PDF formatted for use on mobile devices, and owners of the book are offered the option to download it for a nominal fee. Including an introduction by award-winning author and documentary filmmaker Dayton Duncan, *Treasured Lands* is a rich visual tour of the U.S. National Parks and an invaluable guide from a photographer who hiked--or paddled, dived, skied, snowshoed, and climbed--each park, shooting in all kinds of terrain, in all seasons, and at all times of day. QT Luong's timeless gallery of the nation's most revered landscapes beckons to nature lovers, armchair travelers, and photography enthusiasts alike, keeping America's natural wonders within reach. Includes: Acadia National Park, Arches National Park, Badlands National Park, Big Bend National Park, Biscayne National Park, Black Canyon Of The Gunnison National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Channel Islands National Park, Congaree National Park, Crater Lake National Park, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Death Valley National Park, Denali National Park, Dry Tortugas National Park, Everglades National Park, Gates of the Arctic National Park, Glacier National Park, Glacier Bay National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Great Basin National Park, Great Sand Dunes National Park, Great Smoky

Mountains National Park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Haleakala National Park, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hot Springs National Park, Isle Royale National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, Katmai National Park, Kenai Fjords National Park, Kings Canyon National Park, Kobuk Valley National Park, Lake Clark National Park, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Mammoth Cave National Park, Mesa Verde National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, National Park of American Samoa, North Cascades National Park, Olympic National Park, Petrified Forest National Park, Redwood National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, Saguaro National Park, Sequoia National Park, Shenandoah National Park, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Virgin Islands National Park, Voyageurs National Park, Wind Cave National Park, Wrangell - St Elias National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Yosemite National Park, Zion National Park.

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and diversity. The work serves as a memorable statement of the importance and value of protecting the parks and an inspiring invitation." - Will Shafroth, President, National Park Foundation "The book not only serves as a marvelous example of what this talented photographer has accomplished after many years exploring some of the most beautiful places in America, but it also acts as a guide for his fellow photographers who may want to travel to the parks too. It's a must-have for fans of landscape photography in particular and lovers of the National Parks in general." - William Sawalich, Outdoor Photographer

"T Luong has produced the definitive volume of images of all 59 national parks." - Audrey Peterman, Huffington Post "Treasured Lands is the single-most monumental literary achievement during a year that brimmed with words and pictures dedicated to the centennial of the National Park Service . . . To be sure, it is a visual feast. But it's much more than that, because of its geographic completeness and the attention to detail that only someone who has lived and breathed the parks for a long time could provide . . . Luong's work stands out on the crowded shelves of national park tomes because of the generosity not just of his vision but of his accumulated wisdom." - Glenn Nelson, High Country News "If you're a fan of our National Parks and want the best book about them yet to be published, I recommend you beat a path to your bookstore and buy it." - Jim Barnes, Independent Publisher Magazine "A unique treat . . . Luong's shots are so luminous that you'll likely be booking a trip soon." - Alice Cary, BookPage "An inherently fascinating and consistently compelling volume of superbly produced and presented images. This is one of those rare photographic collections that will linger in the mind and memory long after the book itself is finished and set back upon the shelf." - James Cox, Midwest Book Review "Luong shares with us something vastly more than his vision, which is beautiful and uncontrived, and his knowledge, which is considerable; he shares with us hope." - David DuChemin, Craft & Vision "The book I would have loved to have when I was dreaming of visiting America's National Parks. Part travel guide and part inspirational photographic opus, it is a complete, yet concise resource to all the parks. I'm enthusiastically recommending Treasured Lands, a seminal and immensely useful book." - Laurent Martres, PhotoTripUSA Publishing "Treasured Lands is a book that celebrates the National Park Service centennial, but it goes much beyond that anniversary. It captures the 59 "national parks" in their various moods in all seasons of the year, and is certain to lead you to add mightily to your to-do list in the parks." - Kurt Repanshek, National Park Traveler ". . . Luckily, this year the centennial of the National Parks Service has been the occasion of exhibits, documentaries, presidential proclamations, and many books. The most glorious of these is Treasured Lands. No one has captured the vast beauty of America's landscape as comprehensively. . ." - "The New

Exploring the national parks has brought me much joy, and the act of photography was an extension of that love, a desire to share with you in a tangible way the elation that comes with being in such special places, so that you can experience the same joy. I measure its success by how much these photographs inspire you to visit the places for yourself, for the happiness they will bring through a deep connection with nature, and because the experience is likely to transform you into an advocate for conservation. My hope is that this book will not only inspire you to go out and discover new places but also provide you with enough information for you to stand at the places where the photographs originated.Â

I have more than a dozen photography books that focus on America's National Parks, and this book is far and away the best photography book ever published about America's National Parks. Starting with the photographs themselves, they are simply amazing! I really appreciate that Mr. Luong included a description of the location where each photograph was taken and added tips about what time of day other photographers should be at those locations to capture similar photographs (although I doubt many could even come close to Mr. Luong's photographs). The book itself is high quality; high quality paper, strong binding; and very large, beautiful color prints. Lastly the price. I can't believe the price was only \$40. I would have paid triple the price to add this book to my collection. Bottom line: whether you love America's National Parks or just love landscape photography, you must have this book. If you're planning a trip to any National Park and you plan to take a camera, you should definitely have this book. I will use it before every National Park trip.

This is, hands down, the best photographic essay on the 59 National Parks. I have many others in my library (many very good) and have visited all 59 parks (the last was American Samoa a year ago). Reasons why I rate it so favorably? First, the photography is stunning. I wish the photos I took on my visits were a fraction of Luong's quality. Second, Luong includes very helpful summary information on how to best visit each park (including how to access the best photo opportunities). Third, the photos Luong chose give you a true sense of what each park has to offer (I was especially impressed by the night time and underwater photos). This is so much more than a coffee table book. If you have any friends that appreciate (or should appreciate) these amazing parks, gift them with this book (which is, by the way, a heck of a bargain).

Short version: As someone who loves the National Parks, and loves photography, I find this book stunning and inspiring. Easily the best National Park photography book that I've seen (and I've seen quite a few). Long version: This is a 450-page book containing about 500 photographs selected from an individual photographer's work for two decades in all 59 U.S. National Parks. There are also brief notes about each Park, plus brief but useful details aimed specifically at photographers: some of the author's favorite photography spots, details about where each photograph was taken and at what time of day, and a discussion of each Park's seasons from a photographic standpoint, among others. The author (QT Luong) is the first person to have photographed all 59 of America's National Parks using a large-format camera. He did so traveling mostly alone, self-funded, and with the same kind of access to the Parks as any regular visitor. The book is a declaration of love for the Parks (using images instead of big words), a photographic travel essay, and an inspiration for readers to go see these magnificent places for themselves (and bring their cameras). Just to clarify, this is not (and makes no attempt to be) a guidebook or a photography manual. Brief disclosure: I've never met QT Luong, and have no vested interest whatsoever in this book. I bought the book (at the regular price) because I had followed and appreciated the author's photography website, terragalleria.com, for many years. I was also fascinated by Ken Burns' epic 12-hour documentary "The National Parks: America's Best Idea", which featured QT Luong as one of its few living characters. I work in a field unrelated to photography or to the National Parks, but I love the Parks, visit them whenever I can, and I am an avid amateur photographer. Below are a few pros and cons to consider if you're undecided about this book.

Pros:

1. The vast majority of the book's approximately 500 photographs are stunning. The few that are not outright stunning are still very, very good.
2. It is clear that a lot of attention went not only into the choice of photographs, but also in the way they are arranged on the page, so that photographs presented together are thematically coherent and their combination is aesthetically pleasing.
3. The book covers all 59 (as of 2016) U.S. National Parks.
4. The writing is measured, modest and to the point.
5. There is sufficient information about each photograph to inspire and even help prospective National Park visitors who are interested in photography, but without unnecessary technical details.
6. Last, but not least, the book looks and feels really well made. The paper is thick and glossy, with virtually the same quality as dedicated brand-name photo paper, including great detail and colors. The binding seems solid (but I've handled the book gently; not sure how well it would take abuse). The dust jacket is thick, has a premium feel (including embossed lettering) and folds back on itself along the upper and lower edges of the book, which I think makes it more resistant to tears/wrinkles (though I have not purposely tested this).

The following may be viewed as Cons by some, but in my opinion are not:

1. The balance between

images and text in this book may not please everyone, but in my opinion it is just right. For each Park there is one introductory page (text + photo), 3 to 7 pages of pure photography (1 to 4 photos per page and no text at all, except for the page numbers), and 2 to 3 pages of information (including thumbnails of all photographs in the preceding section, with information about each, and a few additional photos).² The book includes very little technical detail about the photographs. The author may mention use of a wide or telephoto lens, but almost never other shooting parameters or exact model of lens, camera, or film (yes, film). For most photographs, it is also not clear whether they were taken using a large-format camera, 35 mm film camera, or digital camera. I personally see this as a good thing.³ Some people may decry the lack of GPS/geotagging information, but let's not forget that this book is the result of two decades of work, and geotagging nature photographs is a relatively recent concept. For each Park, the book does include a map with drop pins showing approximately where each photograph was taken. The map is small and not very detailed, but if one combines the map with the text description, then the location of each photograph becomes quite clear (in most cases).⁴ The book is made in China, but in all likelihood this is part of the reason why you can buy an excellent-quality, 7 pound, >450 page photography book for less than \$40. Cons (I'm being really picky here):¹ For each Park, the book lists year established, surface area in square miles, rank in size, annual number of visits, and rank in popularity. I think the details about visitation could have been omitted. This book is timeless- why include information that will be outdated in a few years?² For the number of visits, a small footnote on page 22 clarifies that the numbers shown are "the average of recreational visits recorded by the National Park Service for each Park over the decade 2005-2014". I'm not sure how many people will see that footnote. Without it, it is really strange to read, for instance, that the annual number of visits to Yosemite is 3,649,924. There's a level of detail in that number that I find frankly uninformative, and even distracting. I think some rounding algorithm would have helped (e.g. annual number of visits in Yosemite ~3,650,000). Of course, the rounding algorithm would have had to be adapted to the Park's popularity, with less rounding for less visited Parks.³ The maps are not graphically consistent across all Parks.

This is no mere typical National Parks book. It is more like a comprehensive guide to all the National Parks, all of what Nature left the United States and its territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific. When we watched Ken Burns' National Parks, I ended up discovering QT Luong and his wonderful photography of the National Parks, from not only the breathtaking photos, but also his write ups, guiding us by hand to each of the magnificent landscapes, and as an amateur photographer it was helpful to me to look up the closest National Parks to where we live (in this case, the West) and

prioritize which ones to go to and what, exactly, we shouldn't miss while we are there, and of course looking up the parks we have been to and lament on the spots we missed. Each section is divided by either region or subject (Tropics section is excellent!) and it gives you an in depth look at certain regions. As for the photographs? It is a labor of love spanning from as far back of at least 20 years, raising awareness to the rest of us how important it is to preserve these last frontiers of nature, especially when the powers that be is now fighting to seize control of some of these lands for greedy development, something that we should prevent from happening. It is a fitting book to correlate with the Centennial anniversary of the National Parks, and it should be on every photographer's library of great photo books.

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