





Southwest

Giant arches, desert mesas, vast canyons and ancient petroglyphs – for many, the Southwest is the most visually spectacular region in the country. Whether you're admiring a giant saguaro cactus or the polished sandstone walls of a narrow slot canyon, one thing is immediately clear: water rules all here.

Trace the Colorado River on a map to find a string of desert jewels: Arches, Canyonlands and the Grand Canyon – monumental landscapes so vast it's hard to wrap your head around them. Further west are two more wonders: Zion, with its neck-cranning Wall Street, and the surreal hoodoos of Bryce. You'll likely spot traces of some of the Southwest's earliest inhabitants, the Ancestral Puebloans, scattered throughout the area, but nowhere is more astonishing than the cliff houses of Mesa Verde.