USA : The National parks of the West, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion, Monument Valley, Mesa Verde

HD

The United States has always been a symbol of freedom.

The great hope-land, the West has the majority of the country's national parks, and it is here that the notion of freedom really starts to make sense. Nature reclaims its rightful place and man shrinks to insignificance.

The Grand Canyon, carved by the flow of the Colorado river, is the best known and the most popular of all the parks.

With an incredible diversity of flora and fauna, it is one of the most fascinating landscapes of western America.

Bryce Canyon , which looks like a section of Mars transported to Earth, is famous for its geological formations, wide swathes of coloured rock which have developed over tens of millions of years.

Inhabited by pre-Columbian peoples between the 2nd and the 12th century, and then by American Indian Paiutes, these rocks are without pity, many a hiker has been caught unawares, lost in this desert-like expanse.

Zion, the « refuge » or the « sanctuary » in Hebrew, is in the state of Utah.

Ancient lands once populated by pre-Columbian peoples and Paiutes, American Indian tribesmen, the park was then eventually colonised by the Mormons. It was classified as a National Monument in 1909.

Who can forget the typical desert decor of the old Westerns? Nothing could be more real here in Monument Valley with its eroded plateaus and brightly coloured rocks. On the borderline between Arizona and Utah, this unearthly landscape has formed the backdrop for many a film.

The Mesa Verde, or « green table » in Spanish, is particularly well known for the troglodyte dwellings built under the cliffs of the canyon. The exceptional archaeological sites in the Mesa Verde parkland are testament to the ancient cultural traditions of the American Indian tribes.

Directed by Jacques VICHET   A documentary of 52'

French version
English version

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HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

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