



DogFriendly.com Magazine

Specializing in Dog Travel for Dogs of ALL Sizes and Breeds.

Welcome to our September 1, 2002 Printable Edition.

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In Search of the Best National Parks for Dogs

by Tara Kain



Photo at the Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

National parks are one of the most visited destination spots in the United States for vacation travelers. Every year, millions of people visit their favorite national parks. But have you ever tried to bring your best friend along? The majority of national parks are not very welcoming to pets. But fortunately there are some exceptions, and some nearby dog-friendly national forests.

DogFriendly.com's Top 5 National Parks

(Ratings are based on sights to see and places to walk or hike with dogs)

1. Grand Canyon, AZ
2. Acadia, ME
3. Shenandoah, VA
4. Yosemite, CA
5. North Cascades, WA

The general policy for national parks is that dogs must be on a 6 foot or less leash at all times, are only allowed in parking lots, in your car, or within 50 to 100 feet of the road. Most of the parks allow dogs in campgrounds and in developed areas, but there can be exceptions to these rules. The majority of national parks do not allow dogs on any hiking or walking trails, any backcountry trails, any beaches or inside buildings. There are even a few lesser known national parks that do not even allow you to drive into the park if you have a pet in your car. This does not sound like a fun vacation to most dogs and dog owners.

But before ruling out a vacation to a national park, it is important to note that some national parks have exceptions to these stringent pet rules. Parks like the Grand Canyon National Park and Acadia National Park, allow dogs on some trails and are well worth a visit even with your pooch. For the majority of national parks that do not allow dogs on any trails, a fair amount of sightseeing can still be done. Keep in mind that the majority of visitors to national parks do not venture too far from their cars. This means there are typically many sites and points of interest to see right from the comfort of your own car (where dogs are welcome). But for people who actually want to go on a hike, dog-friendly national forests are adjacent to or located nearby many national parks.

So how much can you really see at our national parks when bringing your pet along? Below is a list of the Top 10 National Parks from the National Park Service. These parks are rated based on the number of visitors per year, NOT based on dog-friendliness. To give you a flavor of what to expect at these top ten parks, under each park name are rules regarding dogs, exceptions to these rules, and if necessary, mention of a nearby dog-friendly national forest. DogFriendly.com also offers a Top 5 National Park list which highlights the best national parks in the United States to bring a dog, based on sights to see and places to walk with your best friend.

Top 10 National Parks

(Ratings based on number of visitors per year, NOT based on dog-friendliness.)

[Look here for park names AND where dogs are allowed.](#)

DogFriendly.com's Top 5 National Parks

(Ratings based on sights to see and places to walk or hike with dogs)

[Look here for park names AND where dogs are welcome.](#)

Myths and Misunderstandings about Dogs on the Trail

[Here are some claims by park systems and responses to those claims.](#)

To voice your opinion on this article or subject, please [fill out our form](#). We will include some of the comments or letters in next month's Letters to the Editor section.

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In Search of the Best National Parks for Dogs

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Top 10 National Parks

(Ratings based on number of visitors per year. Ratings are NOT based on dog-friendliness.)

1. [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#), Tennessee, 865-436-1200

Pets must be leashed or restrained at all times and are not allowed on hiking trails. They can accompany you in your car and at lookouts and stops near the road. However, there is one trail from the park headquarters to the city of Gatlinburg that allows leashed dogs. It is a nice 2 mile long dirt trail that follows a creek. There are spots along the way where your dog can take a dip in the water. If you want a longer hike, try the nearby dog-friendly [Pisgah National Forest](#) or the [Nantahala National Forest](#). Both are in North Carolina, and they are located about a two hour drive from the national park.

2. [Grand Canyon National Park](#), Arizona, 928-638-7888

This is one of the best national parks to exercise and sightsee with your pooch. Leashed pets are allowed on South Rim trails throughout the developed areas in the park. Dogs are not allowed on any trails below the rim. But do not feel too left out, as the majority of all visitors to the Grand Canyon never go on trails below the rim. One of the dog-friendly South Rim trails is about 2.7 miles long, follows the edge of the Grand Canyon, and offers excellent, awe-inspiring views of the Grand Canyon. Well-behaved dogs are even allowed on the Geology Walk, a one hour park ranger guided tour which consists of a leisurely walk along a 3/4 mile paved rim trail. The following is the rest of the park's doggie regulations. Dogs are not allowed in park lodging, or on park buses. Pets are not permitted at all on North Rim trails with the exception of a bridle path which connects the lodge with the North Kaibab Trail. If you are looking to stay near the canyon, pet-friendly lodging is available one hour away in [Williams](#), Arizona.

3. [Olympic National Park](#), Washington, 360-565-3130

Pets are not permitted on park trails, meadows, beaches or in any undeveloped area of the park. There is one exception. Dogs are allowed on leash, during daytime hours only, on [Kalaloch Beach](#) along the Pacific Ocean and from Rialto Beach north to Ellen Creek. For those folks and dogs who want to hike on a trail, try the adjacent dog-friendly [Olympic National Forest](#). Leashed dogs are allowed on the national forest trails. Of particular interest is the Mt. Mueller Trail which offers great views of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the mountains. Maps for this 13 mile loop trail and other trails can be picked up for free at a Forest Ranger Station including the one located at 551 Forks Avenue South, Forks, Washington.

Top 10 National Parks

(Based on visitors per year, NOT based on dog-friendliness.)

1. Great Smoky Mtns, TN
2. Grand Canyon, AZ
3. Olympic, WA
4. Grand Teton, WY
5. Yellowstone, WY
6. Yosemite, CA
7. Rocky Mountain, CO
8. Acadia, ME
9. Zion, UT
10. Mammoth Cave, KY

Source: [NPS](#)

4. [Grand Teton National Park](#), Wyoming, 307-739-3300

Pets are only allowed in your car, on roads and road shoulders, campgrounds, picnic areas, parking lots, etc. Dogs must be leashed. Dogs are not allowed on any park trails or in the backcountry. With national parks like this, it is very nice to have an adjacent national forest that allows dogs on trails. The [Bridger-Teton National Forest](#) offers miles of [trails](#) for you and your pooch to enjoy.

5. [Yellowstone National Park](#), Wyoming, 307-344-7381

While this national park is not dog-friendly, you will still be able to see, in a limited fashion, some of the major attractions. Dogs are allowed in parking areas, campgrounds and within 100 feet of roads. Pets must be on a 6 foot or less leash or crated or caged at all times. Pets are not allowed on the trails, boardwalks, or in thermal areas where the geysers, including Old Faithful, are located. While dogs are not allowed next to the Old Faithful Geyser, you and your pooch will be able to view its large eruptions from about 200 feet back. And if you drive the Grand Loop Road, you will be able to view some points of interest and perhaps see some wildlife including black bears, grizzly bears, bison and elk. If you are looking for some hiking trails, there are numerous dog-friendly [trails](#) in the nearby [Shoshone National Forest](#), located between the town of Cody and Yellowstone National Park.

6. [Yosemite National Park](#), California, 209-372-0200

This national park offers a fair amount of dog-friendly walking areas and sights to see with your dog. Leashed dogs are allowed on the approximately 2 miles of paved trails located on the floor of the Yosemite Valley. Dogs are not allowed on any other trails in Yosemite. However, there are many sights to see from the dog-friendly paved trails in the valley. Yosemite Valley is world famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs and unusual rock formations. From the paved trails, you can see El Capitan, Half Dome, Yosemite Falls and Bridal Veil Falls. You can pick up more trail information from the Visitors Center in the Yosemite Village area. The park's website also offers an online [map](#) which shows the paved trail path (green dots). Other pet rules are as follows: Pets are only allowed in developed areas, on roads and on paved trails (like the trails in Yosemite Valley). Dogs are not allowed on other trails, in wilderness areas, or on the shuttle buses. Owners must clean up after their pets.

7. [Rocky Mountain National Park](#), Colorado, 970-586-1206

Dogs cannot really do much in this park, but as you drive through the park, you will find some spectacular scenery and possibly some sightings of wildlife. Pets are not allowed on trails, or in the backcountry. Pets are allowed in your car, along the road, in parking lots, at picnic areas and campgrounds. Dogs must be on a 6 foot or less leash. You can still take your dog for a hike, not in the national park, but in the adjacent [Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest](#). There are numerous trails in this national forest that allow dogs. Some of the trails are located off Highway 34 or Highway 36, near Estes Park. The trails, rated easy to difficult, are over 2.5 miles to 4.5 miles or more in length. Some of the dog-friendly trails include the [North Fork Trail](#), the [Lions Gulch Trail/Homestead Meadows Trail](#), and the [Round Mountain Trail](#).

8. [Acadia National Park](#), Maine, 207-288-3338

This national park ranks high on the tail wagging meter. In this park, dogs are allowed in the majority of the park. Dogs are allowed on most of the hiking trails and carriage roads. Pets are also allowed at the campgrounds, but must be attended at all times. They are not allowed on sand beaches or on the steeper hiking trails. Pets must be on a 6 foot or less leash at all times. There is one exception to the leash rule. There is an area in the park that is privately owned where dogs are allowed to run leash-free. It is called Little Long Pond and is located near Seal Harbor. Overall, this is a pretty popular national park for dogs and their dog-loving owners.

9. [Zion National Park](#), Utah, 435-772-3256

Dogs are allowed on one walking trail at this national park. Dogs on a 6 foot or less leash are allowed on the Pa'rus Trail which is a 1.5 mile long trail that runs from the South Campground to Canyon Junction. You and your pooch can also enjoy a 10-12 mile scenic drive on the Zion-Mount Carmel Highway which goes through the park. If you are there from November through March, you can also take your car on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive. If you arrive during the summer months, the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive is closed and only allows park shuttle buses. Other pet rules include no pets on shuttle buses, in the backcountry, or in public buildings. Pets are allowed in the campgrounds and along roadways.

10. [Mammoth Cave National Park](#), Kentucky, 270-758-2251

At this national park, leashed dogs are allowed on hiking trails and in campgrounds. There are over 70 miles of hiking trails which go through valleys, up into hills, and next to rivers, lakes and waterfalls. However, dogs are not allowed in the cave, which is the main attraction at this park. The park does offer kennels that are located near the Mammoth Cave Hotel. The kennels are outdoor and not heated or air-conditioned. I have not been to this park, so I am not sure about the condition of the kennels, except to say that outdoor kennels at some national parks can be less than desirable. For example, when I visited Yosemite, the kennels were in a remote, overgrown area. If you want to try the kennels at Mammoth Cave, be sure to check them out first. You will need to make a reservation for the kennels and there is a \$5 key deposit fee for the cage lock and a \$2.50 fee for half a day or a \$5.00 fee for the entire day. To make kennel reservations, call the Mammoth Cave Hotel directly at 270-758-2225.

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DogFriendly.com's Top 5 National Parks

(Ratings based on sights to see and places to walk or hike with dogs)

1. [Grand Canyon National Park](#), Arizona, 928-638-7888

Your and your dog can view the popular Grand Canyon along the South Rim where millions of visitors come every year. Dogs are allowed on the South Rim trails which includes a 2.7 mile scenic walk along the rim. And, well-behaved pooches are allowed on the Geology Walk, a one hour park ranger guided tour which consists of a leisurely walk along a 3/4 mile paved rim trail. The following is the remainder of the doggie regulations. Dogs are not allowed in park lodging, or on park buses. Pets are not permitted at all on North Rim trails with the exception of a bridle path which connects the lodge with the North Kaibab Trail.

2. [Acadia National Park](#), Maine, 207-288-3338

Dogs are allowed on most of the trails and carriage roads. There is even an off-leash area within the park at Little Long Pond. Pets are not allowed on sand beaches or on the steeper hiking trails. Pets must be on a 6 foot or less leash at all times, except for the above mentioned off-leash area.

3. [Shenandoah National Park](#), Virginia, 540-999-3500

This national park, located along a section of the Blue Ridge Parkway, offers miles and miles of dog-friendly hiking trails. There are some trails where dogs are [not allowed](#), but your pooch is allowed on the majority of trails in this park. Pets must be on a 6 foot or less leash at all times, and are allowed in campgrounds, and picnic areas.

4. [Yosemite National Park](#), California, , 209-372-0200

Dogs are allowed on the paved trails throughout the Yosemite Valley. The valley is where the majority of tourists visit and you can see most of the popular landmarks and sights from the valley floor, with your pet. Dogs are not allowed on other trails, in wilderness areas, or on the shuttle buses. Owners must clean up after their pets.

5. [North Cascades National Park](#), Washington, 360-856-5700

Dogs are allowed on one of the hiking trails, the Pacific Crest Trail. This scenic hiking trail runs through the park and is rated moderate to difficult. The trail is located off Highway 20, about one mile east of Rainy Pass. At the Bridge Creek Trailhead, park on the north side of

the highway and then hike north (uphill) or south (downhill). A Northwest Forest Pass is required to park at the trailhead. The cost is about \$5 and can be purchased at the Visitor's Center in Newhalem. For a larger variety of trails, including a less strenuous hike, dogs are also allowed on trails at the adjacent Ross Lake National Recreation Area and the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. Both recreation areas are managed by the national park.

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In Search of the Best National Parks for Dogs

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Myths and Misunderstandings about Dogs on the Trail

If you are wondering why dogs are not allowed more freely in our national parks, here is an excerpt from the National Park Service. "(These rules) are intended to protect wildlife, wildlife patterns, your pet and to avoid disturbing other visitors."

With this in mind, I have included the following excerpt from the *Best Hikes with Dogs in Western Washington* book by Dan A. Nelson.

Myth: *The presence of dogs will discourage wildlife from using the area.*

Hikers with dogs generally find that if they are quiet and attentive to their dog's behavior, they frequently will see more wildlife, including deer, small mammals, and birds. Dogs will often "point" toward wildlife, or otherwise give you a heads-up to the existence of a nearby critter. As long as the dog is trained not to bark, or to chase or harass wildlife, they can alert you to more wildlife sightings.

Myth: *Dogs chase and injure wildlife.*

This is largely a training issue, although even a domestic dog that hasn't had lessons in leaving wildlife alone will generally be extremely cautious and hesitant to chase a wild animal about which it knows nothing. Still, any dog that does chase wildlife will be an unleashed dog that fails the "good trail dog" basic skill requirements. These animals don't deserve to be on trails, but good dogs don't deserve to be lumped together with the ill-mannered beasts, either.

Myth: *Dog feces spread disease to wildlife.*

Wildlife biologists in the western United States polled by Dan Nelson, author of *Best Hikes with Dogs: Western Washington*, couldn't identify a single case of a dog transmitting a disease to a wildlife population. There is a very slight risk that wildlife may transmit disease to dogs, however, especially tick-borne diseases, so all trail dogs should be on a tick-control system and undergo tick-checks after each outing.

Myth: *Dogs spread giardia and other waterborne illnesses.*

Dogs, like all mammals--including humans--can spread *giardia*. But this is a resource issue. People are the biggest spreaders of *giardia* and other waterborne illnesses. If you're concerned about the water, worry less about the dogs and more about the people that have contaminated the water--then filter or chemically treat every bit of water you drink in the backcountry.

Myth: *Dogs damage sensitive or fragile environments.*

Dogs who are kept under control (on leash or under strict voice command) do less damage than the humans with whom they hike (soft pads versus heavy hiking boots). When

venturing off-trail the same holds true--humans have more impact on fragile settings than dogs have, and in some areas, neither should be leaving the trail.

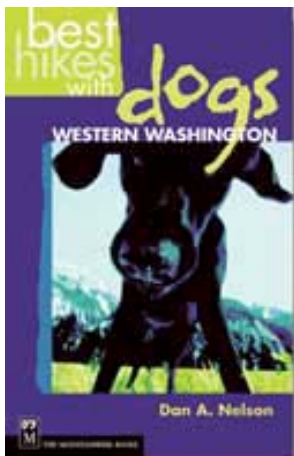
Myth: *Trails are too crowded, trailhead parking too limited, and campsite space too much in demand to let dog hikers share those resources.*

This is a resource issue, not a user issue. If specific subsets of a hiking community can be banned because of limited resources, then who's next: Hikers with kids? Hikers wearing heavy lug soles?

Myth: *Trail width and visibility are too restricted for safe dog use.*

If two hikers can pass on the trail, then a dog and a hiker should be able to pass another hiker, too. In any case, good trail etiquette for dog hikers requires that they and their dogs step off the trail to let other users pass first.

--Adapted from Best Hikes with Dogs in Western Washington by Dan A. Nelson, published by [The Mountaineers Books](#). All rights reserved and copyrighted by The Mountaineers Books.



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Feature Article: September 2002

Bringing Your Well-Behaved Pooch to a Bed and Breakfast Inn

Maybe you are tired of an ordinary motel or hotel room, or perhaps you are looking for a romantic getaway. You might consider staying at a bed and breakfast inn. Sounds like a plan. Except for one minor detail. You insist on bringing your dog with you. After all, you spend most of your time at work, and when you finally go on a vacation, you want to bring your best friend along. Dog-friendly bed and breakfast inns can be few and far between. But assuming you finally find one that welcomes you and your pooch in one of their rooms, what should you expect and what pet rules are normally practiced at bed and breakfast inns? We found some advice from the experts, bed and breakfast innkeepers and owners.

Most of the innkeepers we contacted have been allowing pets in their establishments for at least 8 years. And most, if not all of them, are pet lovers who have dogs of their own or just plain like having dogs around. But in order to achieve harmony amongst all guests, innkeepers usually have certain pet rules. The pet policies at many inns are pretty much the same: pets must be leashed when outside the room, pets must be quiet in the rooms, pets must be attended at all times, and owners should pick up after their pets. A few inns also require that your dog be on some kind of flea protection, like Advantage or a flea collar.

We also asked the innkeepers what some of their "pet peeves" are when allowing dogs. The overwhelming pet peeve was dog owners that leave their dogs alone in the rooms when they should not. Some inns have policies against this, and occasionally guests still leave their pets alone. If you are going to bring your pet with you on vacation, please be a responsible pet owner and do not leave your dog alone if it is against the policy. Try to find activities to do with your dog. And if you are dining out and cannot find a dog-friendly outdoor restaurant, try bringing the food back to the room or inn.

Innkeepers do not like having dogs left alone in the rooms for several reasons. Many innkeepers told us that even though guests told them the dog would be quiet, the dog barked constantly. Another problem was that some dogs (even normally well-behaved dogs) got scared and were destructive to the room, like chewing or scratching on the door.

Keep in mind that these problems are typically uncommon for innkeepers. The overwhelming majority of pet owners are very responsible and abide by the pet policies. In fact, the innkeepers and owners we contacted had some great things to say about dogs and dog owners that have been their guests.

"We love dogs and cats and really enjoy having them. We also understand the frustration people have in this area (Chincoteague Virginia area) with finding a really nice place that allows pets. We really have stepped up our promotions of being pet-friendly over the years." -- Tom and Sara Baker, Owners, [The Garden and Sea Inn](#), New Church, Virginia, 800-824-0672

"I love animals. I have a dog of my own and she enjoys the animals. And people who own pets are usually terrific people!!" -- Nancy Hinchliff, Owner/Innkeeper, [Aleksander House Bed and Breakfast](#), Louisville, Kentucky, 502-637-4985

When asked what they like about allowing dogs, "The guest's appreciation for allowing what has become a part of their family to be with them while traveling." -- Nick Jacques, Owner/Manager, [Barrister Bed and Breakfast](#), Helena, Montana, 406-443-7330

When asked why they decided to allow dogs, "We have owned The Carriage House for 5 years, have our own dog and cat, plus the previous owners accepted pets." -- Andrew and Lesley Kettley, Owners, [The Carriage House Inn](#), Laguna Beach, California, 949-494-8945

It is also important to note that some bed and breakfast inns charge an additional pet fee or deposit. If you decide to stay at a dog-friendly bed and breakfast, be sure to ask about their pet policy when making a reservation. If you know the policies ahead of time, you will most likely have a more pleasant stay.

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Destination: September 2002

Bar Harbor, Maine: Fall Foliage and Fido

One of the main focuses of this waterfront vacation town of Bar Harbor is the nearby dog-friendly Acadia National Park. And what better time to visit than the fall foliage season in mid-September through October. Fall foliage is when the leaves on the trees change from green to brilliant colors including yellow, orange, brown, and red. The colorful leaves usually peak in the first few weeks of October. But you will not be the only one enjoying the area. Your pooch will most likely have an exciting time here with all of the hiking trails, the surrounding mountains, lakes and ponds.

Bar Harbor offers a variety of dog-friendly lodging, from motels and inns, to vacation rentals. If you are looking for an oceanfront inn located in downtown Bar Harbor that allows pets, look no further than the Balance Rock Inn. The inn is within walking distance of many restaurants and shops in downtown Bar Harbor. You can park the car here and leave it parked for the entire stay, with the exception of driving it to the Acadia National Park for a hike or two. Choose from fourteen individually decorated rooms at the inn, many of which offer an ocean view and private balcony. They also offer a heated outdoor pool and fitness room. But your pooch will probably appreciate hikes in the park instead. Room rates for this inn average \$200 to \$300 per night but can start at \$95 and go up to almost \$600 per night. There is also a \$30 per day pet fee. If you are looking for something a little less pricey, try Hanscom's Motel and Cottages. They are located just 3 miles from downtown Bar Harbor. Rates for the motel range from \$54 to \$120 per night, with an extra \$8 per pet. If you do go during the fall foliage season, make reservations early for lodging, as rooms fill up fast.

For some exercise, relaxation or just to enjoy the outdoors, head over to the Acadia National Park. Bar Harbor is actually surrounded by the park, so you will not have very far to drive. There is a \$10 entrance fee into the park, which is good for 7 days. You can also purchase an audio tape tour of the Park Loop Road which is a self-guided auto tour. The driving tour is about 27 miles and takes 3 to 4 hours including stops. Audio tapes are available at the Halls Cove Visitor Center. You can even take a Wildwood Stables horse and carriage tour of the park with your pooch. The ride is along carriage roads which do not allow cars. But this can be expensive because they only allow dogs on the private tours which cost \$180 (\$90 per hour, 2 hour minimum, holds up to 6 people including dogs). If you are looking to go for a hike or a walk, Acadia is one of the best national parks in the country for canines. They actually allow dogs on most hiking trails, which is unusual for a national park. Dogs on leash are welcome on miles of hiking trails, carriage roads, campgrounds, and picnic areas. The only places they are not allowed are on the sand beaches, on steep hiking trails and inside public buildings. You might want to first pick up a trail map from the Park Headquarters, located on Route 233, just east of Bar Harbor. You will be able to see plenty of fall foliage at this park if you come during the season.

If your dog is itching to run leash-free, then head on over to Little Long Pond, near Seal Harbor. There is a privately owned piece of land within the national park where your pooch can throw off his or her leash and play. While in this area of the park, be sure to visit the Jordon Pond House Restaurant where you can dine outdoors at the tables on the lawn with

your leashed pooch. The outdoor seating area offers a beautiful view of the pond and mountains. They are open for lunch, afternoon tea and popovers, and dinner. Enjoy entrees like the Grilled Maine Salmon, Steamed Lobster, and Maine Crab Cakes. The restaurant also offers salads, beef, chicken, desserts and a children's menu.

Speaking of restaurants, there are at least two more in Bar Harbor worth mentioning. Jack Russell's BrewPub, serves a variety of beer as well as food. They allow dogs at the outdoor tables. And yes, they do have a Jack Russell Terrier as their mascot. The other place, George's Restaurant, is located in downtown Bar Harbor and allows your dog to dine with you at the outside tables. This Mediterranean restaurant offers nice patio seating which overlooks a garden. Enjoy dinner entrees like the Lobster Strudel, Whole Maine Lobster, Filet of Beef and more.

Since Bar Harbor is a waterfront town, you might get the urge to view the land from the water, or just go fishing. Acadia Outfitters allows dogs on their lake canoes. Rent a tandem canoe for \$35. Just make sure your pooch does not rock the canoe enough to tip it over and send everyone into the water! If you prefer to cruise on a boat with your dog, the Masako Queen Fishing Company, located in nearby Southwest Harbor, offers five hour deep sea fishing trips. Prices are about \$39 per person for a half day, and a little less for children and seniors. The boat goes out eight to twelve miles from the shore to fish for mackerel, codfish and more. You will even be able to bring back your own lobster.

Whether you come to Bar Harbor for the fall foliage or just plain fun, definitely bring your pooch. Bar Harbor is located about a 6 hour drive from Boston, and a 10 hour drive from New York City.

For more information:

Lodging:

[Balance Rock Inn](#), 21 Albert Meadow, Bar Harbor, ME, 207-288-2610

[Hanscom's Motel and Cottages](#), Route 3, Bar Harbor, ME, 207-288-3744/288-0039

For more dog-friendly lodging in Bar Harbor, [look here](#)

Restaurants:

[George's Restaurant](#), 7 Stephens Lane, Bar Harbor, ME, 207-288-4505

[Jack Russell's BrewPub](#), 102 Eden St. Bar Harbor, ME, 207-288-5214

[Jordon Pond House Restaurant](#), Route 3, Bar Harbor, ME, 207-276-3316

Attractions:

[Acadia National Park](#), Eagle Lake Road, Bar Harbor, ME, 207-288-3338

Acadia Outfitters, 106 Cottage Street, Bar Harbor, ME, 207-288-8118

Masako Queen Fishing Company, Beal's Wharf, Southwest Harbor, ME, 207-244-5385

[Wildwood Stables](#), Route 3, Bar Harbor, ME, 207-276-3622

Destination: September 2002

Seattle, Washington: Waterways, Markets and More!

The city of Seattle offers many sights to see and activities to do, both for people and dogs. In fact, canines are welcome at some of the most popular attractions, including the Seattle Center, Pike Place Market, Pioneer Square, and ferry rides. You can take a sightseeing cruise on the Seattle Harbor and walk through the site of the 1962's World's Fair with your pooch.

There are many places to stay in Seattle including the Alexis Hotel and the Pensione Nichols Bed and Breakfast Inn. The Alexis Hotel is a boutique hotel, located within walking distance of the historic dog-friendly Pioneer Square. Well-behaved dogs of all sizes are welcome at the hotel and there is no extra pet charge. If you pay an extra \$30 one time fee for your dog, he or she will receive the Deluxe Doggie Upgrade which includes a keepsake water bowl with water, doggie treats, a Three Dog Bakery cookbook, special doggie in-room dining service menu, and a morning and afternoon walk by the Alexis Hotel bellman. For an extra charge, they can arrange a pet sitter for your pooch if necessary. Room rates start at about \$170 and up. At the Pensione Nichols Bed and Breakfast, dogs at least up to 75 pounds are allowed. The inn is located in downtown Seattle, and overlooks the dog-friendly Pike Place Market. Room rates range from \$90 to \$110 per night and \$195 for a suite. There is no extra charge for pets.

There are many sightseeing opportunities in downtown Seattle, including the Seattle Center. This 74 acre urban park was home to the 1962 World Fair. While your pooch cannot go into the buildings, he or she is allowed to walk around the center with you and spot out several points of interest. The famed Seattle Space Needle resides at the center and is always a good photo opportunity. You and your pooch can also visit the Sculpture Garden and watch jugglers, musicians, face painters, and more. Pets must be on leash. If you have a doggie that happens to be under 20 pounds, you can even carry them on the Seattle Monorail.

While dogs are usually not allowed at many farmers markets, this huge marketplace actually allows dogs. The popular Pike Place Market is a historic area that covers nine acres, has about 15 residential and retail buildings, and gets about nine million visitors per year. This marketplace offers fresh seafood (watch out for flying fish!), vegetables, fruit, flowers, cafes, shops, artists, street performers and more. The place might look familiar if you have seen the movie, "Sleepless in Seattle," which was filmed at this marketplace. While here, dine with your pooch at the Il Bistro, an Italian ristorante. They offer three outdoor tables where your well-behaved dog can lay next to you. The dinner menu includes seafood specials, pasta and more. For lunch, you can stop by the Sister's Cafe for a sandwich and eat outside with your dog. Canines are welcome at the marketplace, but are not allowed inside the stores or cafes.

Next stop is Pioneer Square which is Seattle's oldest neighborhood. It is preserved as a National Historic District. Please note that dogs are not allowed on the Underground Tour at

Pioneer Square. In this district you can stroll through the area and see the historic buildings, or better yet, take an elegant horse and carriage ride. Emerald Country Carriages allows well-behaved dogs and offers both open and closed carriages which seat up to six. Their standard tour includes the waterfront and Pioneer Square. You can catch one of the white and burgundy carriages on the waterfront, between Piers 55 and 56. The cost is about \$35 for a standard 30 minute tour and an extra \$10 if you make a reservation in advance.

Seattle is also famous for boating and its waterways. There are several dog-friendly boats you can ride with your best friend. First is the Washington State Ferries, the nation's largest ferry system and the state's number one tourist attraction. It is important to note that there are different pet rules for different ferry routes. If you take the Seattle to Bainbridge Island, Seattle to Bremerton, or the Edmonds to Kingston routes, your leashed dog is welcome to accompany you on the outdoor decks (dogs are not allowed inside), or in your car. If you take the Anacortes to Friday Harbor (San Juan Islands) route, dogs must stay in the car and are not allowed to walk around on the ferry. While you can venture to the above decks to get food at the snack bars, the ferry system recommends that you stay with your pooch in the car. For any of the ferries, dogs are not allowed inside the ferry terminals. In Seattle, you can board the ferries at Pier 52. The Edmonds and Anacortes ferries leave from their respective cities. Ferry prices for people and autos are determined by the route and peak times, but in general tickets for people are under \$10 round trip, and more for autos. Dogs ride free!

If you want more of a sightseeing cruise, Argoys Cruises allow well-behaved, leashed dogs on three of their sightseeing cruises. They offer one to two hour narrated cruises. The Harbor Cruise is one hour and departs from Seattle's historic waterfront at Pier 55. You and your pooch will learn about Seattle's history, view the city skyline, see one of the world's largest shipping terminals and more. Prices are \$15.25 per person or less, depending on the season. Children's rates are about half of an adult's ticket price. Dogs ride at no extra charge. The Seattle Lake Cruise is about two hours and departs from the AGC Marina Dock E on South Lake Union, rain or shine. The tour will show the historic houseboat community, including the houseboat filmed in the movie "Sleepless in Seattle." You will also view Mt. Rainer from a distance and see homes of Seattle's rich and famous. Prices are \$24 or less per person (children for about half price and dogs ride free). Snacks and beverages are available for sale on the cruises. Reservations are recommended, but not necessary.

By now your dog might be craving a visit to a park. One park of interest is Discovery Park, located northwest of Seattle. It has over 500 acres and is the city's largest park. It offers views of both the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges. Dogs on leash are allowed on about 7 miles of trails except for beaches, ponds, wetlands and the Wolf Tree Nature Trail.

Another park worth driving to is Sand Point Magnuson Park. The park is northeast of Seattle and is located across the lake from the city of Kirkland. This park has about 350 acres and is Seattle's second largest park. You will find over four miles of walking trails along Lake Washington, through grassy fields, trees and brush. Dogs are not allowed in the water at Lake Washington, except at the off-leash area. The leash free dog park covers about 9 acres and is the biggest fully fenced off-leash park in Seattle. It also offers an access point to the lake where your pooch is welcome to take a dip in the fresh lake water. To find the dog park, take Sand Point Way Northeast and enter the park at Northeast 74th Street. Go straight and park near the playground and sports fields. The main gate to the off-leash area is located at the southeast corner of the main parking lot. Your dog must be leashed until

you enter the off-leash area.

After all this exercise, you and your pooch might have worked up an appetite. Stop by the Madison Park Cafe located south of Magnuson Park and south of 520/Floating Bridge. Well-behaved, leashed dogs can accompany you to the outdoor tables at this French bistro. The restaurant is open on the weekends for brunch and Tuesday through Saturday for dinner. The dinner menu includes entrees like Lemon Parsley Raviolis, Lavender Honey Marinated Rack of Lamb, duck, and steak. Prices start at about \$15 per entree.

Whether you come for a day, a weekend or a week, you and your best friend will find plenty of places to go and sights to see in Seattle. And at the end of the day, after a full itinerary of activities, it is unlikely that you or your pooch will be "Sleepless in Seattle."

For more information:

Lodging:

[Alexis Hotel](#), 1007 First Avenue, Seattle, WA, 866-356-8894

[Pensione Nichols Bed and Breakfast Inn](#), 1923 First Avenue, Seattle, WA, 206-441-7125

For more dog-friendly lodging in Seattle, [look here](#)

For more dog-friendly lodging in the Seattle area, [look here](#)

Restaurants:

[Il Bistro](#), 93A Pike Street, Seattle, WA, 206-682-3040

[Madison Park Cafe](#), 1807 42nd Ave East, Seattle, WA, 206-324-2626

Sister's Cafe, Pike Place Market, Seattle, WA, 206-623-6723

Attractions:

[Argoys Cruises](#), 1101 Alaskan Way, Pier 55, Seattle, WA, 206-623-4252

[Emerald Country Carriages](#), Piers 55-56, Seattle, WA, 425-868-0621

[Pike Place Market](#), First and Pike, Seattle, WA, 206-682-7453

[Pioneer Square](#), First Street and Yesler Way, Seattle, WA

[Seattle Center](#), Mercer Street and Broad St., Seattle, WA, 206-684-7200

[Washington State Ferries](#), Pier 52, Seattle, WA, 206-464-6400

Parks:

[Discovery Park](#), 3801 W Government Way, Seattle, WA, 206-386-4236

[Sand Point Magnuson Park](#), 7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA, 206-684-4075

[Sand Point Magnuson Park Dog Off-Leash Area](#), 7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA, 206-684-4075

Accommodation Spotlight: September 2002

Lap up Luxury in Coronado, CA

Nicknamed the "Crown Jewel", the city of Coronado is located across the bay from downtown San Diego. Coronado is surrounded by water, the Pacific Ocean on one side and the San Diego Bay on the other. If you love the outdoors, Coronado is the place to be with sunshine many days of the year, beaches, walking trails and more. And what better place to stay than at the Loews Hotel in Coronado. Your dog of any size is welcome and invited to stay at this resort on the bay. Upon arrival, your pooch will receive a letter from the manager which lists some of the best dog-friendly places to take your dog, where to walk your dog and where to dine with your pooch. After you check-in, a pet package is brought to your room. It includes doggie treats, bottled water, and a keepsake food bowl. The resort is not bad for people, either. You will be staying at a 15 acre resort that offers three swimming pools, two spas, three lighted tennis courts, fitness center, and private access to the beach. Room rates start in the low \$200's per night. There is no additional charge for pets.

For more information:

[Loews Coronado Bay Resort](#), 4000 Coronado Bay Rd, Coronado, CA, 619-424-4000
[More San Diego dog-friendly places](#) including Accommodations, Attractions, Outdoor Restaurants and Parks.

Attraction/Event Spotlight: September 2002

Stroll through Natural Wonders in Lookout Mountain, GA

Where else will you find a Grand Corridor, Needles Eye, Swing-A-Long Bridge, Lover's Leap, Seven States Flag Court and more, all in one place? Try Rock City Gardens in Lookout Mountain, Georgia, near the Tennessee border. This is a special attraction that welcomes leashed pets on their trails. There are over 4,000 feet of trails, with interesting things to see along the way. You and your pooch will come across cool stone walls towering close on either side, a 1,000-ton Balanced Rock perched atop the two points of its tiny rock base, a 180 foot suspension walking bridge, a viewing spot to see seven states at once, and much more. Admission fees are \$11.95 for adults, \$6.95 for children ages 3 through 12 and free for children 2 and under. Dogs also get in for free. Just remember to keep your pooch leashed. Parking is free.

For more information:

[Rock City Gardens](#), 1400 Patten Rd, Lookout Mountain, GA, 706-820-2531

[More Smoky Mountains dog-friendly places](#) including Accommodations, Attractions, Outdoor Restaurants and Parks.

Restaurant Spotlight: September 2002

Waterfront Dining at Beautiful Lake Tahoe, CA

Whether you arrive by car or by boat, your pooch is welcome to join you at this incredibly scenic lakefront restaurant. The outdoor seats at the West Shore Cafe are located right next to the deep blue waters of Lake Tahoe. On the other side of the tables are towering pine trees. Entrees include pasta, salads, salmon and other seafood, steak, lamb, sandwiches and dessert. Lunch entrees start at \$9 per meal and dinners start at \$20. If it is a little cool outside, the waiter or waitress can turn on the outdoor heaters which will keep you nice and warm. Since the restaurant is all outdoors, they are only open during the summer months, from about the end of May through mid-September. The restaurant is located on the west shore of Lake Tahoe, between South Lake Tahoe and Tahoe City.

For more information:

[West Shore Cafe](#), 5180 West Lake Blvd., Homewood, CA, 530-525-5200

[More Lake Tahoe dog-friendly places](#) including Accommodations, Attractions, Outdoor Restaurants and Parks.

Park/Recreation Spotlight: September 2002

Rim Walking at the Grand Canyon, AZ

Your and your dog can view the popular Grand Canyon along the South Rim where millions of visitors come every year. Dogs are allowed on the South Rim trails which includes a 2.7 mile scenic walk along the rim. The trail follows the edge of the Grand Canyon, and offers excellent, awe-inspiring views of the Grand Canyon. Well-behaved pooches are even allowed on the Geology Walk, a one hour park ranger guided tour which consists of a leisurely walk along a 3/4 mile paved rim trail. The following is the remainder of the doggie regulations. Dogs are not allowed in park lodging, or on park buses. Pets are not permitted at all on North Rim trails with the exception of a bridle path which connects the lodge with the North Kaibab Trail.

For more information:

[Grand Canyon National Park](#), Grand Canyon, Arizona, 928-638-7888

[More Grand Canyon dog-friendly places](#) including Accommodations.

Survey of the Month

[Last Months Survey Results - Click Here](#)

What kind of vehicle do you currently use for your road trips that include your dog?

- Standard Car (Sedan, Hatchback, etc)
- Station Wagon
- SUV
- Minivan
- Motorhome
- Trailer
- I don't go on road trips with my dog

Are you satisfied with your current road trip vehicle?

- Yes
- No

What type of vehicle would you prefer for a road trip that includes your dog?

- My current vehicle is fine for my road trips with my dog
- Standard Car (Sedan, Hatchback, etc)
- Station Wagon
- SUV
- Minivan
- Motorhome
- Trailer
- I don't go on road trips with my dog

Any Additional Comments?

Results of the August, 2002 Survey

Are you willing to pay Full Fare Coach in order to bring your Dog with you in the airplane cabin? (For example: \$2400.00 Round Trip Coast to Coast per person)

No - 33%

Yes - 56%

This doesn't apply to me because my dog is small enough to fit under the seat of a commercial airliner. -11%

If you answered Yes to the above question, how much extra would you pay for your dog?

No Extra Money. - 64%

Up To \$150.00 per dog. - 27%

Up To \$1000.00 per dog. - 8%

Up To \$2500.00 per dog. - 1%

Some Comments Returned with the Survey

We received hundreds of Responses to our survey on air travel with dogs. We are unable to print all of them, but here are a few. Thanks to all of you who responded.

I would pay full fare for my dog to ride in the cabin with me.

Why couldn't there be the option of buying the seat next to you for a dog. It should work for the side row seats that only have 2 seats.

I travel virtually every week and I take my Yorkie with me on board the plane. I resent having to pay the \$100 each way for 'excess baggage' when I am not carrying any extra number of bags.

\$1,000 round trip per person + \$150 round trip for my 2 dogs, with a discount for any additional dogs.

I would pay the same amount of money that I pay for my seat. For example, if I fly from Ft. Lauderdale to Denver for \$320.00 round trip in coach - I would also pay \$320.00 for my dog (65lbs) to have a seat next to me. We could even keep them in a carrier throughout the airport and in the plane - to avoid liability issues that the airlines might be concerned about. I would want the dog to be next to me - not in the back by himself.

I would pay the non-refundable fare for my dog just as I would for myself. I wouldn't pay full fare ever.

I would pay the best available fare for the 2 additional seats it would require for my dog to travel comfortably in the cabin.

I would be willing to pay for a coach fare as I pay, say \$300. But not \$2400..

I am willing to pay the same amount for my dogs' tickets as I pay for mine.

Why should it be full-fare? They don't charge parents of children full fare prices. It should be what fare I could get at the time and possibly a reasonable additional fee for the extra work it may cause.

Willing to pay whatever my fare is!!

I wouldn't ever pay \$2400 for a ticket for myself or my dog but I would pay whatever price I get my ticket for, usually \$200-\$250. He would, of course, be in his own seat next to me for this full fare price, not in a crate in the back of the plane.

Thank you for doing this survey. I would very much like to see dogs permitted in airplane cabins and would use this service at least twice a year for my two dogs. I equate a dog with a child of 10 yrs in terms of airfare and space. (I have large size dogs - Golden Retriever, etc. 75-90 lbs). I would feel most comfortable paying a child's fare for my dog to be in the cabin, but would be willing to pay an adult fare equivalent to the price of my ticket.

A reasonable additional fee is a consideration. Dog crates are rather bulky, so would they be allowed in the rear? My dog is medium-large and very well behaved, as any dog should be if traveling...I have opted to drive rather than use the luggage compartment for my dog. Dogs are part of a family so any thoughts to their comfort is appealing.

My pets are considered family. We always include them whenever we travel. Therefore we never fly.



Kids Corner



September 1, 2002 Edition

Fun Stuff

Dogs in the White House

[Spotty](#)

[Barney](#)

[Jackson & Dave](#)

More Fun Stuff

[Canine Heroes - Trading Cards](#)

Famous Dog Actors

[Air Bud](#)

[Eddie on "Frasier"](#)

[Lassie](#)

[Porthos on "Enterprise"](#)

[Rin-Tin-Tin](#)

[Wishbone](#)

What Kind of Dog is This?



- A. Poodle
- B. Alaskan Malamute
- C. Siberian Husky
- D. Jack Russell Terrier

Answer is at the bottom of this page.

[Click here](#) for more doggie pictures!

Coloring Dog Page



[Click Here to Color the Dog!](#)

Print This Page and Color In the Doggie!



Ask DogFriendly.com

To ask us questions about Dog Travel, [click here](#).

We will post answers to some of the questions in next month's magazine.

Questions from the August 2002 Edition

Kim (Davis, California)

Q: Are there any trains that will accommodate dogs? Thanks for the airline information!

A: Amtrak unfortunately does not allow dogs, not even in kennels or carriers. They used to allow dogs in the cars with owners, but stopped in 1976. [Look here](#) for details. There are some commuter trains that allow small dogs. For example, the [Virginia Railway Express](#), and the [Long Island Railroad](#), allow small dogs in carriers. The [Seattle Monorail](#) allows dogs under 20 pounds. The [Boston T](#) allows small dogs in carriers during rush hour and they even allow larger dogs on leash during non-rush hour. The [VIA Rail in Canada](#) allows dogs in the baggage cars and you are allowed to check on them during the ride with the service manager's permission. For a picture of how it should be here in the U.S., [look here to see a photo](#) of a dog on a VR Finland train.

Rachel (Raleigh, North Carolina)

Q: Are there places that welcome dogs based on their certification as Canine Good Citizens? Our dog has this certification and is also in training as a therapy dog. It seems that this additional level of behavior training should be recognized by some organizations, but to date we have not heard of any. Have you ever heard of any? Thank you

A: While I have heard rumors of therapy dogs riding in the cabin section of an airplane (not a small dog in a carrier), I know of no official policy to that effect. I am not sure if therapy dogs have any other special privileges other than going into hospitals and other institutions that need the therapy dog's service. As for Canine Good Citizens, I know of no recognition that would allow them in places where regular pets are not permitted. I believe search and rescue dogs on missions are allowed to fly in commercial airliner's cabins with their handlers. And of course service and guide dogs are legally allowed in many places.

Lora (Fontana, California)

Q: Do you know how expensive an economy fare would be if I were to take my 2 canines with me in the plane on a trip to Hawaii?

A: You should check with airline as to the fares, but keep in mind if you have medium to large size dogs, they will have to travel in cargo. I would not recommend transporting them in cargo. I've heard too many stories where things have gone wrong. Another very important note is that Hawaii has at least a 30 day quarantine for dogs. According to the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture, animals are required to complete a 120-day confinement in the State Animal Quarantine Station. If specific pre-arrival and post-arrival requirements are met, animals may qualify for a 30-day quarantine. If you are moving to Hawaii, you might consider this, but I do not recommend going to Hawaii for a vacation with your dogs.

Deane (Palo Alto, California)

Q: We have a 12 week old Standard Poodle puppy who gets car sick everytime we take her for a ride. She has been on 7 or 8 short rides so far. Do you have any suggestions to help us get her acclimated to the motion? Our prior dog had no trouble riding in the car. This little gal begins to shake when she sees we are going for a ride because she already associates car riding with being sick! Thanks for any ideas!

A: The same thing happened with my 3 month old puppy. He is now almost 7 years old and has ridden at least 30,000 miles in the car and loves going on trips. I started by taking him in the car about once every week for a quick, short ride. I would always take him to a fun place like to a cafe or drive thru restaurant, a park, or a pet store. It would always be to a place where he would enjoy getting out. I would always lay a blanket or towel on the seat and carry a spare or two for if he did get car sick along the way. Eventually we had more trips with less car sickness. It does take alot of time and patience, but with some persistence, your pooch should be able to love car trips.

Letters to the Editor

To Submit a letter to the editor for consideration for next month's magazine, [click here](#).

Responses to our [Air Travel article](#):

Deedie (Los Angeles, California)

Just a comment--the article on air travel with your dog states that the animals are placed in the same cargo hold as luggage, which is not true. I only had one experience taking my dog on a plane and everything went well, it's not something I wanted to make a habit of personally tho, but I do know that I was told by many airlines that the animals have a separate section that has the same air & temperature regulation as the cabin, they are not below the plane surrounded by suitcases that are bouncing around up against their crate as one may infer from the article, in fact they needed to know how many animals would be travelling in advance to make sure that there were enough spaces (I think the type of plane on my particular flight only had space for 2 kennels)at any rate, I'm hoping the companion air idea takes off, attitudes about a pets role in the family have changed too much for airlines not to take notice and make changes

Renee (Montrose, Colorado)

I travel every week and I take my Yorkie, Bruiser, with me on every trip. I have to pay \$100 each way on United for what they call 'excess baggage'. I really resent paying the money because technically I am not carry excess baggage any more than someone with a laptop. If there were an airlines that didn't charge, I'd fly them every time just because of the consideration they have for pet lovers.

Molly (Washington, D.C.)

I have a year and a half old Westie named Maisy May. She has flown on a number of flights with me in the cabin on Delta and USAirways. On all flights, 12 in all, I have had wonderful experiences. The flight crew has been friendly and helpful and the passangers in the seats next to me have been very kind. I always alert them that I have a dog in a bag and if they need me to change to another seat, I would not mind. No one has ever asked me to move. However, what I need is a direct flight between Washington, DC and Milwaukee, WI. Prior to owning my dog, I flew Midwest Express Airlines all the time. They are the only major airline that does not allow dogs in the cabin. I have called their customer service line and they cannot give me a straight answer as to why and no one has returned my emails that I have sent to them. If all other airlines allow dogs in the cabin, why won't Midwest Express do the same?

Lynn (Ruidoso, New Mexico)

I have been a travel agent and dog lover forever. If I have always wondered what the big deal would be to have the rear section set up for pet owners. A seat and a cage. Extra family members can sit in the front of the plane. They can have a closed door to keep the noise in the back, and insure that each cage has an easy to clean base and a diaper type lining to just throw away when finished. It sounds like Companion is heading that way.I applaude them, and will sell them.

Responses to our [Doggie Etiquette article](#):

Tom (Atlanta, Georgia)

Don't simply offer (to clean up after your dog if he or she goes to the bathroom in a store) ---DO IT, with the clean-up supplies that hopefully all dog handlers carry with them whenever they are out in public. A plastic grocery bag and a few paper towels easily fit in to a pocket, purse or fanny pack.Otherwise, I thought your comments were pretty much on target.
