



International Inbound Travel Association

FAQs: International Visitor Surcharge & America the Beautiful International Pass

What we know now – subject to updates as informed by the National Park Service

December 10, 2025

Overview

The Department of the Interior (DOI) and National Park Service (NPS) have announced a new **International Visitor Surcharge** and a revised **America the Beautiful (ATB) International Pass**, effective January 1, 2026. Many details are still pending, creating confusion for international visitors, tour operators, gateway communities, and travel trade partners.

Below is what we understand to date from National Park Service Director Jessica Bowron, along with the outstanding questions the industry urgently needs answered.

FAQs

1. What is the new fee structure for international visitors/non-U.S. residents for national parks.

International visitors and non-U.S. residents will pay a **\$100 per-person surcharge** in addition to the entrance fee for **11 national parks**:

- Grand Canyon National Park
- Yellowstone National Park
- Yosemite National Park
- Zion National Park
- Rocky Mountain National Park
- Acadia National Park
- Bryce Canyon National Park
- Everglades National Park
- Glacier National Park
- Grand Teton National Park
- Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

For all other national parks, the standard entrance fee applies without a surcharge.

International visitors/nonresidents may purchase the America the Beautiful (ATB) pass for \$250 for entry to multiple parks for a full year.

2. How will visitors be able to pay the International Visitor Surcharge and/or the ATB International Pass?



International Inbound Travel Association

NPS has not yet released a full implementation plan. Key known elements include:

- The **ATB International Pass** will be available for purchase on **Recreation.gov**. If the pass is not purchased in advance online, they may purchase it at the entrance to the first park they visit.
- The **\$100 International Visitor Surcharge** will need to be collected in person at entry points, not through Recreation.gov.
- Operational details — especially for group tours — **have not been announced**.

3. Will the \$250 ATB International Pass allow entry for *all* occupants of non-commercial vehicles? What about non-vehicle entry points?

Yes. Like the current ATB Pass, the International ATB Pass will cover all occupants of a private, non-commercial vehicle.

The pass will also allow entry for:

- Up to 4 individuals on foot or bicycle, and
- Up to 2 motorcycles.

4. How will the ATB International Pass and \$100 entrance surcharge work for group tour travelers and road-based commercial tour (RBCT) CUA holders?

The ATB International Pass will allow entry to multiple parks for the passholder *only* for international visitors/nonresidents traveling on commercial group tours.

The per vehicle entrance fee for the commercial tour bus will still apply.

Group tour travelers who don't have the ATB pass will be required to pay the \$100 surcharge for entry to the 11 designated parks.

5. Can inbound tour operators purchase passes on behalf of their customers?

NPS indicated that approved providers will be allowed to purchase passes for clients, as is the case today, however, the process may change and there is no guidance on that as yet.

6. Will ATB Passes purchased in 2025 remain valid for 12 months (i.e. through the expiration date) without requiring the surcharge?

Yes. **Any pass** purchased in 2025 will remain valid for a full 12 months from the date of issuance and will not require an added surcharge in 2026.



International Inbound Travel Association

7. How will individuals prove residency when purchasing a pass online?

Passes purchased online at recreation.gov will include a statement advising purchasers that they must present a valid photo ID matching the name on the pass.

If the visitor does not produce a matching ID upon arrival, they will be required to pay the balance of the International ATB Pass fee at the gate.

8. How will parks accommodate electronic passes in areas without Wi-Fi?

Passes may be downloaded to digital wallets, and they are printable.

9. Will surcharge revenue remain with the respective park?

- Passes or surcharges paid **on-site** will be subject to the **80/20 allocation rule**, with the park retaining 80% of revenue.
- ATB passes purchased **digitally** flow into the **national revenue pool**.

10. When can we expect additional implementation details?

NPS has not provided a timeline.

Given the complexity, especially for group tours, the industry urgently needs guidance. IITA will continue to work with policymakers at the Department of the Interior and industry partners on operational details and to advocate for clarity, fairness, and collaborative planning with DOI and NPS.