

# Collector's Journal

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## 2014 Arches National Park Quarter Utah

### *Twenty-Third in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection*

Arches National Park in eastern Utah is featured on the third of five America the Beautiful Quarters in 2014. It followed the coins for Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee and Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, and it will be followed by Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado and Everglades National Park in Florida.

The obverse of each America the Beautiful Quarter includes a portrait of George Washington by sculptor John Flanagan. The portrait first appeared on the Washington Quarter in 1932, although the U.S. Mint announced that the image was “restored to bring out subtle details and the beauty of the original model” for the America the Beautiful Quarters series.

Also on the obverse is the mint mark, which identifies the branch of the U.S. Mint that struck the coin. It is located under “In God We Trust.” “P” is for the Philadelphia Mint, while “D” is for the Denver Mint.

The America the Beautiful Quarters series honors National Parks and other national sites of “natural or historic significance” in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories. Five coins are issued each year, and each coin is limited to a minting period of about 10 weeks.

Arches National Park contains more natural stone arches than any other comparable area in the world. The arches are the result of millions of years of erosion of the soft red sandstone. The park, though, is also filled with balanced rocks, spires, pinnacles, and other rock formations that create a unique and fascinating environment. There is also a surprising array of plants and wildlife.



The park, which is over 4,000 feet above sea level and which sits above the Colorado River in the high desert, was set aside as a National Monument in 1929. It became a National Park in 1971. The most famous arches in the park include Delicate Arch, Landscape Arch, Tower Arch, and Double Arch. At 306 feet, Landscape Arch has the longest span of any arch in North America, while the larger of Double Arch's two arches soars an incredible 144 feet to claim the title of the park's tallest opening.

The Arches National Park Quarter depicts Delicate Arch with the La Sal Mountains in the background. Delicate Arch has become a symbol of Utah and is the most famous and recognizable arch in the park. Since 1996, it has been the illustration on Utah's regular license plates. It was also featured on the 32¢ stamp issued in 1996 to commemorate the centennial of Utah statehood, and when Salt Lake City hosted the Winter Olympic Games in 2002, the torch relay passed through the arch.

In addition to the design that appears on the coin, six other designs created by the U.S. Mint were also under consideration for the Arches National Park Quarter. Every design featured an arch in the park, including one that showed Delicate Arch from the reverse angle. The Arches National Park Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in June 2014.

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