

the **COLDEST**
MARATHON IN THE WORLD

the **COOLEST**
NFL MOMENTS CAUGHT ON FILM

the **HOTTEST**
MUSICIAN IN NORTH FLORIDA

AMERICAN AIRLINES - AMERICAN EAGLE

AMERICANWAY

AUGUST 15, 2010

WUNDERLAND

From mountain peak to valley floor,
Switzerland awaits your arrival

AN
EXCLUSIVE
ONE-ON-ONE
WITH
STAN LEE





Stan Lee on Spider-Man, video games and, yep, Twitter. Page 16.

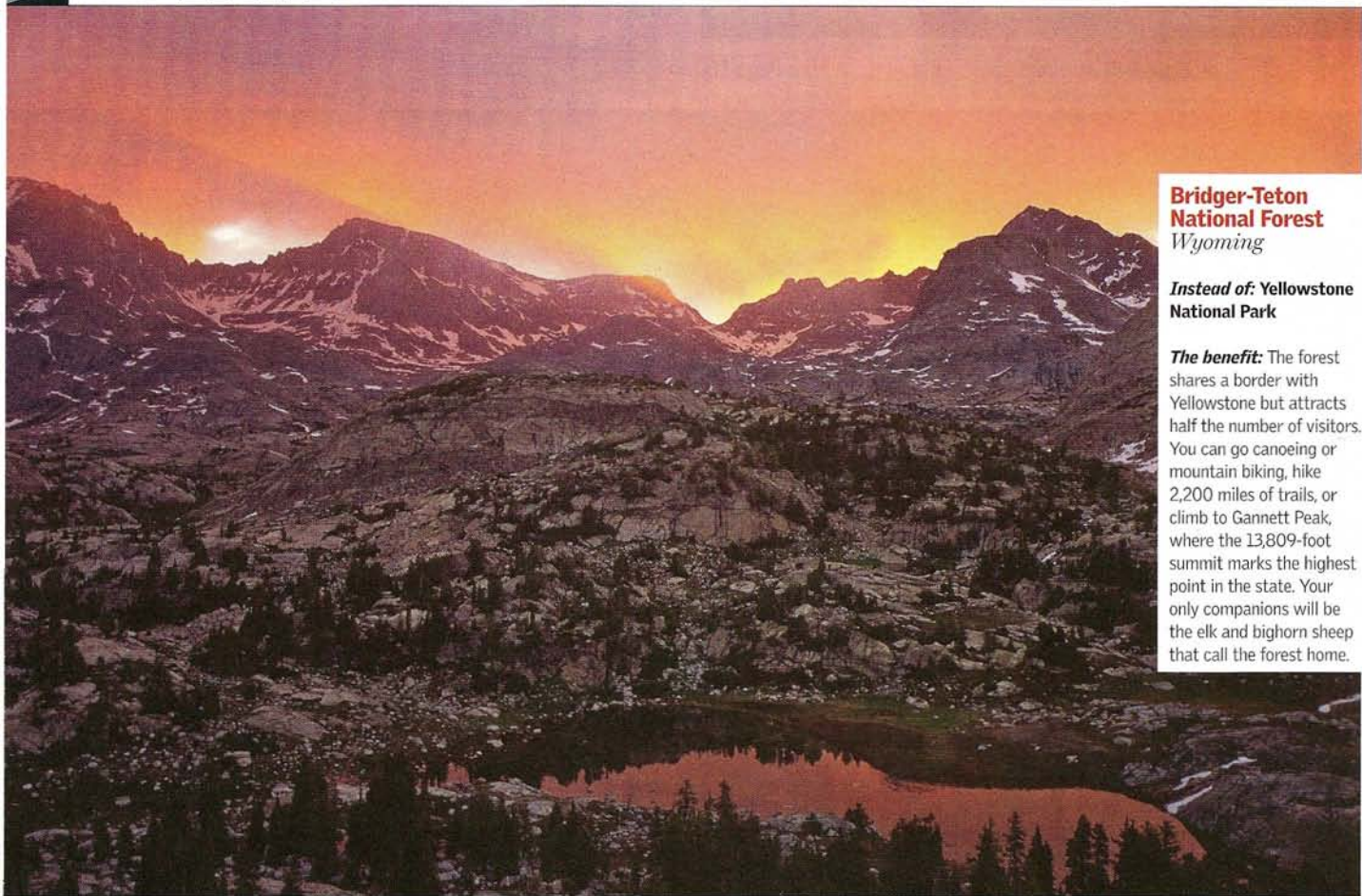
UPFRONT >

Yosemite National Park

GO WHERE THE CROWDS AREN'T

Escape from tour buses filled with camera-wielding tourists and spend your summer vacation visiting some lesser-known national parks. ►

BY JODI
HELMER



Bridger-Teton National Forest *Wyoming*

Instead of: Yellowstone National Park

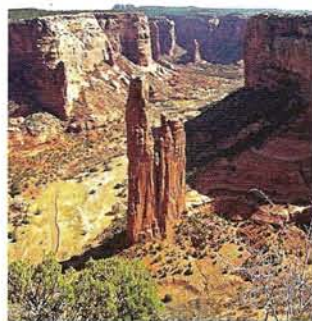
The benefit: The forest shares a border with Yellowstone but attracts half the number of visitors. You can go canoeing or mountain biking, hike 2,200 miles of trails, or climb to Gannett Peak, where the 13,809-foot summit marks the highest point in the state. Your only companions will be the elk and bighorn sheep that call the forest home.



Capitol Reef National Park *Utah*

Instead of: Zion National Park

The benefit: The 241,000-acre park is one of Utah's best-kept secrets. Capitol Reef has towering hoodoos, colorful monoliths and rugged ridges that rival those in Zion. Despite its grandeur, only 617,000 visitors entered the park in 2009, compared with 2.7 million at Zion. The National Park Service voted it the best place for stargazing.



Canyon de Chelly National Monument *Arizona*

Instead of: Grand Canyon National Park

The benefit: Compared with the Grand Canyon, where tour buses abound, Canyon de Chelly feels deserted. The park was once home to indigenous tribes and is still considered sacred land; a number of the ancient ruins have been preserved. Spider Rock, a sandstone spire that rises 800 feet from the canyon floor, is one of several rock formations in the park.



Nantahala National Forest *North Carolina*

Instead of: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The benefit: The Nantahala National Forest is the largest national forest in North Carolina but welcomes fewer than 3 million visitors per year (compared with more than 9 million at Great Smoky Mountains National Park). The forest is known for its hiking trails, which include segments of the Appalachian Trail. The Nantahala River, with its Class II and III rapids, is a popular spot for white-water rafting.



Yosemite National Park *California*

Instead of: Yosemite National Park

The benefit: You don't have to leave Yosemite to escape the crowds. Almost 90 percent of the park's 3 million-plus visitors head to Yosemite Valley, in the western end of the park. On the eastern edge of the park, however, Tuolumne Meadows has similar granite formations but no crowds. Tioga Pass, the highest in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, is located 9,943 feet above Tuolumne Meadows and offers the best views of the park.