CRATER LAKE
NATIONAL PARK • OREGON

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1916
1966
60TH ANNIVERSARY
the Chief of the Below World was driven into his home, and the top of the mountain fell upon him. When the morning sun rose, the high mountain was gone. The mountain which the Chief of the Below World had called his own no longer towered.

The rain fell. For many years, rain fell in torrents and filled the great hole that was made when the mountain fell upon the Chief of the Below World. The Curse of Fire was lifted. Peace and quiet covered the earth. Never again did the Chief of the Below World come up from his home. Never again did his voice frighten the people.

From Indian Legends of the Pacific Northwest

HOW TO ENJOY THE PARK

First, read this booklet. The few minutes spent will help you to plan your visit and to make your experiences much more meaningful.

Second, stop at the exhibit building in Rim Village. In this building are exhibits on wildflowers, rocks, wildlife, and other natural history subjects. The naturalist in attendance will be happy to help you schedule your activities. He will explain the processes that created Crater Lake and other processes that are continuing to change it. Here, too, you can purchase publications on the formation of the lake, plant-life and wildlife, and the Indian legends. Schedules of naturalist activities are posted here.

We urge everyone to attend the evening campfire programs and explore the forest and lake with a park naturalist as guide. (For a description of these activities, see page 8.)

Your orientation will be completed by a visit to the Sinnott Memorial Overlook building, just below the exhibit building, within the caldera. The broad terrace presents a magnificent panorama, and mounted fieldglasses with explanatory labels provide a closeup view of certain features. In the exhibit room, paintings and photographs portray the varying moods of the lake.

WHAT TO SEE AND DO ON YOUR OWN

You will want to explore much of the park by yourself. Roads lead to most places of interest, and delightful trails will guide you to others. The booklet Along Crater Lake Roads will be an invaluable aid to your automobile explorations. Also, look for the interpretive markers at many of the turnouts; they tell of the natural forces which have made the beauty you see around you.

Rim Drive, encircling the caldera, presents observation points from which to view and photograph the lake. You will begin to comprehend the size and scenic grandeur of Crater Lake once you have taken this 35-mile drive.

The Pinnacles are an easy 6 miles from Rim Drive at Kerr Notch. Here, you will see the needlelike spires of pumice and scoria rising out of the 200-foot-deep canyon of Wheeler Creek. Long ago, this area was a veritable "valley of 10,000 smokes," where small, loose rock fragments solidified around the gas and steam vents. Later, water erosion carried away the softer surrounding material, revealing the harder pinnacles. In Sand Creek canyon and in Godfrey Glen in Annie Creek canyon, you may see similar spires and fluted columns.

Cloudcap, reached by a short spur from Rim Drive, provides an excellent observation point. At an elevation of over 7,800 feet, among the windswept whitebark pines, you look down 1,600 feet to the lake surface, gaining a view which complements that from Sinnott Memorial Overlook.

North Entrance Road leads through lodgepole pine forests and the Pumice Desert. Try to visualize this area just after it was devastated by the glowing avalanche of pumice (a frothy lava) that covered it during the climatic eruptions of Mount Mazama. The lodgepole pine, a pioneering tree, has succeeded in reclaiming most of the area except the Pumice Desert. Even here the lodgepole may eventually win out and grow on top of a pumice cover that is as much as 200 feet thick. When you drive along Oreg. 62 from either the South or West Entrances, you will see forests that now grow where molten lavas once poured down the mountainside. You will also see vertical-walled canyons cut through the lavas by Annie and Castle Creeks.
Wizard Island is actually a volcano within a volcano. You can reach it by boat and climb the trail to the summit, about 760 feet above the lake. Once on top, you can climb down into the crater, which is about 90 feet deep and 300 feet wide.

Launch trips around the lake will give you a closeup view of the inside of a volcano and of the multicolored lava cliffs, which are even more impressive when viewed from below. The Phantom Ship may remind you of a ship under sail in particularly accompanied by park naturalists, start from the foot of Cleetwood Cove, and an enjoyable part of this experience is the walk into the caldera over this trail. This recently constructed trail descends gradually for 1.1 miles through a mixed evergreen forest to the boat landing. The launch trips start from this boat landing. You should allow 45 minutes for the trip down the trail and 45 minutes for the climb back.

Garfield Peak offers magnificent views of the lake and the surrounding region from its summit, 8,600 feet above sea level and almost 1,900 feet above the lake. You can reach the summit of the peak by following a 1.5-mile trail eastward from the lodge.

Discovery Point Trail is a delightful walk in the opposite direction from Garfield Peak. On this trail, you may stand near the place that Hillman stood when he, as the first white man to see the lake, made his exciting discovery more than a hundred years ago. (See page 10.)

The Watchman, a peak on the west rim, rises more than 1,800 feet above the lake. You can reach the summit by taking an 0.8-mile trail from Rim Drive. Here you can see the fire lookout in operation. Exhibits in a lower room of the lookout building describe the life and death of a forest. Exceptional views extend in all directions, and on clear days you can see California’s snowy Mount Shasta, more than 100 miles away.

Hiking brings you into close contact with nature. You will be surprised to find how many things you notice while hiking that you would not otherwise see. A number of short trails terminate at points of interest which you will not want to miss. (You can purchase U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps, particularly useful on longer hikes, at the exhibit building.)

Cleetwood Trail, located on the northeast wall above Cleetwood Cove, leads to the lakeshore. This recently constructed trail descends gradually for 1.1 miles through a mixed evergreen forest to the boat landing. The launch trips start from this boat landing. You should allow 45 minutes for the trip down the trail and 45 minutes for the climb back.

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MOUNT SCOTT, directly across the lake from The Watchman, offers a somewhat longer hike. To reach the fire lookout on its summit, you must climb 1,230 feet over 2½ miles of trail. The grade is easy, however. Here, 8,936 feet above sea level, and almost 2,800 feet above the lake, you will be on the highest point in the park. The fire lookout stations on Mount Scott and The Watchman are major aids in pro­tecting the area of Crater Lake National Park and the surrounding national forests from the ravages of fire.

Castle Crest Wildflower Garden, 0.4 mile southeast of park headquarters, has a self-guiding nature trail with a guide booklet. Here you can stroll leisurely through forest and meadow, seeing the plants and, we hope, some of the wildlife.

THE NATURALIST PROGRAM

The National Park Service provides free naturalist services during the summer, so that you may have a more enjoyable visit and gain greater appreciation of the superlative natural features preserved in this park. Programs of current interpretive activities are conspicuously posted. Regardless of your age or interests, there is an activity for you.

Information can be obtained from the park naturalist on duty at the exhibit building or from any other uniformed employee.

Talks on the origin of Crater Lake are given several times each day at Sinnott Memorial Overlook.

A complete program, consisting of announcements of the following day’s activities, group singing, and a slide-illustrated talk, is held each evening at the Mazama Campground amphitheater south of Annie Spring junction. Similar programs are held indoors at community house in Rim Village. A half-hour illustrated talk is also presented each evening at the Crater Lake Lodge. Talk topics change each night.

Guided trips are scheduled daily to points of interest within the park. The 2½-hour hikes along Garfield Peak or Discovery Point Trails start from the exhibit building. Boat trips start at the foot of Cleetwood Trail. The head of this trail is about 11 miles north and east around Rim Drive from Rim Village.

WINTER VISITS

You may thrill to the experience of driving between towering snowbanks along the park’s open-all-year roads. Lying on the crest of the Cascades, which intercept moisture-laden clouds from the Pacific Ocean, Crater Lake National Park receives more than 50 feet of snow annually. The snowy splendor delights camera enthusiasts and also holds special appeal for those who seek the solitude and unblemished beauty of winter landscapes.

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From October through May, heavy snowfalls sometimes decorate the trees.

For your enjoyment, the National Park Service maintains two ski trails from Rim Village to park headquarters. You will want to climb the snowbank at Rim Village to see the deep blue of Crater Lake contrasted with the glittering whiteness of the surrounding snow-covered walls.

On weekends and holidays from about September 15 to June 15, the coffee shop at Rim Village offers light refreshments and souvenirs. Overnight accommodations are available at several locations near the park.

You may enter the park and drive to Rim Village by either the South or West Entrance. The North Entrance and Rim Drive are closed by snow during the winter. You should be well supplied with gasoline and oil; the service station is not open in winter. Carry tire chains; they may be declared mandatory at any time. A tow rope and shovel may prove useful. Park rangers are on duty all year to render service.

DISCOVERY OF CRATER LAKE

As you stand on the caldera rim, gazing across the blue lake—to remote, so unexpected in these high mountains, so impressive in its rugged surroundings—you may wonder how this scene affected the first man to behold it.
ash, cinder, and pumice. Later, streams and glaciers carved valleys in the sides of the volcano and deposited rock debris on its flanks. You can see for yourself the layered character and different formations of the mountain. They are clearly exposed in many of the caldera walls.

Forming of dikes. Volcanoes, in addition to extruding surface flows of lava, often force molten rock into underground fissures. Subsequent hardening of this magma results in dikes, or walls, that are frequently harder than the enclosing rock. At Crater Lake the destruction of the mountain and erosion have exposed several dikes within the caldera wall. One of the finest examples you will see is the Devils Backbone.

Actions of streams and glaciers. Annie Creek, Castle Creek, and other streams are at work cutting their canyons ever deeper, even as they have been doing for centuries. Here streams earlier cut canyons down which glaciers flowed. Within the caldera walls are cross sections of stream cuts and accumulations of water-carried gravel and boulders. Look for markers indicating where glacial ice—carrying sand, pebbles, and boulders—scoured and polished rock surfaces over which it moved. Glacial polish and thick beds of glacial debris are common around the mountain. They occur on the surface rock and between earlier layers, showing that glaciers existed at various stages in the history of the mountain. You can see a large glacial deposit near the water's edge at the bottom of Crater Lake Trail.

Formation of the caldera. Many geologists have concluded that the basin occupied by the lake resulted from the collapse of molten rock through subterranean cracks. Extensive studies by Prof. Howel Williams, of the University of California, led him to practically the same conclusion. The explanation was first proposed by J. S. Diller, of the U.S. Geological Survey, who suggested that the basin occupied by the lake resulted from the collapse of the mountain in a catastrophic event and was carried northeast of Mount Mazama. This pumice was blown from the mountain in a catastrophic event and was carried northward—conforming to the slopes of similar volcanoes—geologists have estimated that approximately 17 cubic miles of the upper part of Mount Mazama were destroyed by the collapse.

The growth of Wizard Island. After the destruction of the peak, volcanic activity within the caldera produced a small volcanic cone now known as Wizard Island. So far as we know, it can see only the top of this young mountain, the lowest part of which is more than 1,000 feet below the surface of the present lake. Soundings show that two other cones lie within the caldera, hidden from your eyes by the lake water.
CRATER LAKE
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to be caused chiefly by the scattering of sunlight in water of exceptional depth and clarity; the blue rays of the sunlight spectrum are reflected upward; the other rays are absorbed by the water.

WILDLIFE

The green meadows and forests that now cover the once bleak volcanic landscape provide food and shelter for wildlife. Your visit will be enriched as you learn more about the birds and other animals of the park.

Mammals You May See

The appealing golden-mantled ground squirrels scampering around every parking turnout can hardly escape your notice. They are often confused with the two species of chipmunks, which are smaller and shyer. It is easy to tell the difference: the ground squirrel has a stockier body, with a white strip between two dark stripes on each side of the back, and no stripes on the face; the two species of chipmunk have stripes on the face. We recommend that you enjoy these animals without handling them; they may bite, and they occasionally carry serious disease.

The small, tree-inhabiting Douglas squirrel, or chickaree, may acold you from the safety of a tree limb. This squirrel, dark gray-brown above and pale orange to light gray below, is common. Another mammal that spends much time in trees, but is seldom seen there, is the porcupine. You are more likely to see it along the road at night. Look for the large, fat-bodied, yellow-bellied marmot in the green meadows. The marmot has a long blackish crest, and the uncrested gray jay, which has a white back, and no stripes on the face; the two species of chipmunk are easily recognized. These animals without handling them; they may bite, and they occasionally carry serious disease.

The black bear is fairly common and may be encountered in many parts of the park. Usually it is black, but it may also be any of several shades of brown, just as hair color varies among people. Do not let bears get close to you. Many people have been painfully clawed because these animals have lost their natural fear of man and have learned to beg for food. Do not feed the bears! Feeding them is unlawful, and violating this regulation seriously endangers you and other park visitors by encouraging the bears to beg. When they beg, they approach closely, and, unpredictably, they may suddenly turn on the person from whom they are begging and inflict serious wounds.

Goldie the marmot. The blue of the lake is believed to be caused chiefly by the scattering of sunlight in water of exceptional depth and clarity; the blue rays of the sunlight spectrum are reflected upward; the other rays are absorbed by the water.

Golden-mantled ground squirrel.
LIFE IN CRATER LAKE WATERS

Indians formerly living in the vicinity of Crater Lake believed that ferocious monsters dwelled in its mysterious blue depths. We know that this is not true, but Crater Lake does contain a surprising number of plants and animals. Much of this life came into the water naturally, and some was introduced by man. Thirty-seven fingernail-sized trout were planted by William G. Steel in 1888. Other plantings were made up to the early 1940's, when this practice was discontinued. Populations of rainbow trout and kokanee (landlocked form of sockeye salmon) are now maintained through natural reproduction.

You may see the harmless valley garter snake on shore or in the water. Among the rocks, look for crayfish, snails, caddis fly larvae, the Crater Lake newt, and the long-toed salamander. Freshwater shrimp are among the forms restricted to the water. Just as important are the microscopic animals and plants that you cannot see, for they supply food for the larger animals. You may see the glassy skeletal remains of diatoms which are deposited as a thick ooze on the floor of Fumarole Bay and elsewhere around Wizard Island. Larger forms of algae give a green color to the tiny pools at the extreme clarity of the water. You will actually see life made up to the early 1940's, when this practice was discontinued. Populations of rainbow trout and kokanee (landlocked form of sockeye salmon) are now maintained through natural reproduction.

Trees and Shrubs

As you drive through the Transition life zone on the lower western slopes of Mount Mazama, look for scattered stands of Douglas-fir. You may see the chestnut of this zone, characterized by the ponderosa pine, at South Entrance. Associated with the ponderous pine are white fir, sugar pine, and a few Douglas-fir. Bread-leaved trees, such as quaking aspen and black cottonwood, are present in moist locations. The snowbrush ceanothus and greenleaf manzanita extend upward into the Canadian life zone. In the rim area around Crater Lake, Canadian life zone plants mingle with those of the Hudsonian life zone. Mountain huckleberry and Shasta red fir are common to both zones. Whitebark pine, found sparingly near Rim Village, develop into nearly pure stands at higher elevations. You will find their storm-twisted forms near the highest point along the Cloudcap road.

Wildflowers

Colorful meadows of wildflowers are found around numerous springs which form the sources of streams on the outer slopes of the mountain. Look for wildflowers at these places and along the road between park headquarters and Rim Village and along Rim Drive. The flowers add to the pleasure of hiking the park trails. July and August are the best months to see them, but you can find them earlier in lower areas and on warmer exposures.

Blossoms of the spreading phlox, which carpet the barren pumice areas, may be so profuse as to fill the air with their delightful and delicate incense. You may expect phlox and the western pasqueflower to appear shortly after the snow melts. Patches of painted-cup and sulfur eriogonum color the roadsides, followed later by common pearl everlasting and fireweed.

FORESTS AND WILDFLOWERS

As you will see, the distribution of plants is dependent on several factors, including climate and soil type. Generally, as you climb upward the air becomes cooler and stands become heavier precipitously. These changing "climatic zones" produce characteristic groupings of plants and animals, called life zones. Three such zones occur within the park and contain over 750 species of ferns and flowering plants.

Trees and Shrubs

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Plant labels will introduce you to the flowers as you stroll along the Garfield Peak and Discovery Point Trails. Castle Crest Wildflower Garden, near park headquarters, is one of the most attractive and ideal places for studying Crater Lake flora. There you can orchids, violets, columbine, gilia, painted-cup, bleedingheart, monkshood, aster, and great masses of lupine and monkeyflower, all labeled for identification. Use the self-guiding trail booklet to learn about the associated trees and shrubs.

The flower exhibit in the visitor center in Rim Village will help you to recognize the plants that you see along the park roads and trails, and there are several informative publications about the park's wildflowers. The booklet, "Crater Lake Road's calls attention to outstanding roadside wildflower locations. Another booklet, "101 Wildflowers of Crater Lake National Park," is useful for identifying the commonly seen flowers.

THE CHANGING SEASONS

It has been said that Crater Lake has but two seasons—winter and summer. This is not exactly true, for spring is the season when deep winter snows melt, and summer, during July and August, is like the spring of lower altitudes. Autumn heralds the coming winter; yet it provides beauty of earth and sky. To appreciate it fully, you must visit Crater Lake at all seasons.

Winter. Snow covers the park for nearly 8 months of the year. On your winter drive to Crater Lake, you pass between high snowbanks. At Rim Village, you may enter the coffee shop through a "snow tunnel." Buildings and campgrounds lose their identity and become as one with the white wilderness. Trees bend gracefully under heavy snow burdens, and the dazzled white blanket contrasts with the blue sky, and there is an atmosphere of serenity and sparkling cleanliness.

Spring brings the melting of snow, northward flights of ducks and geese, bears emerging from their winter dens, the arrival of summer birds and deer working their way up from their low winter ranges. You will be greeted by the golden-mantled ground squirrel and the Clark's nut-cracker. Park crews try to have the roads clear of snow so that the North Entrance road can be open by mid-June, the Rim Drive by early July. There will be bare ground in places; but you will still travel between vertical snowbanks where building, and safety plows were used to carve out a passage. Summer, barely 2 months long, is full of activity. Visitors trying to see this masterpiece of nature in too short a time, witness the arrival of fish, deer working their way up. The days are usually warm and nights are cool, but occasionally storms may lend a feel of winter. Summer is the time when all services are available and the park may be most easily seen.

Autumn weather is unpredictable, with storms punctuating the crisp air and bright blue skies. Rim Drive and the North Entrance road remain open until the first heavy snow. Especially during October, autumn colors of dogwood, maple, willow, and aspen make the drive to the park from the road to the rim. A "snow tunnel." Buildings and campgrounds lose their identity and become as one with the white wilderness. Trees bend gracefully under heavy snow burdens, and the dazzling white blanket contrasts with the blue sky, and there is an atmosphere of serenity and sparkling cleanliness.

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Park by reading of it in greater detail. The following publications are among those sold through the Crater Lake National History Association, a nonprofit corporation organized for the purpose of assisting in the scientific, educational, historical, and interpretive activities of the National Park Service. You can purchase the publications at the visitor center and at park headquarters.


Butcher, Devereux. Exploring our National Parks and Natural History Association, a nonprofit corporation organized for the purpose of assisting in the scientific, educational, historical, and interpretive activities of the National Park Service. You can purchase the publications at the visitor center and at park headquarters.


**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

**WHERE TO STAY**

Free campgrounds are open from about July 1 to September 30, depending on snow conditions. Mazama and Annie Spring Campgrounds, near the junction of the South and West Entrance roads are open. Campers pay fees for their sites, which include tables, water, and flush toilets. Lost Creek Campground, on the road to The Pinnacles, has fireplaces, tables, water, and pit toilets. Housetrailers are welcome, but there are no utility connections. Reservations for campsites cannot be made in advance. For campground rules, consult the campground bulletin board and see page 29 of this booklet. If you need advice, ask a park ranger. And a word of caution: Bears may take your food if you leave it unprotected in camp.

Lodge and cabins, located in Rim Village, are open from about June 1 to September 10. You should make reservations well in advance and send a deposit. Write to the Crater Lake Lodge, Inc., Crater Lake, Ore., 97604, for information and reservations.

Picnic areas are provided for short stops. They have tables and pit toilets. Fires are not permitted. You may choose many of the eight areas that are conveniently located along park roads, as shown on the map in this booklet.

**HOW TO REACH THE PARK**

**SERVICES**

Food and supplies. The dining room at Crater Lake Lodge is open during the same period that the lodge is in operation. In summer the cafeteria in Rim Village serves meals from 7 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. During the winter, on weekends and holidays, it is operated as a coffee shop serving light refreshments. Some groceries may be purchased at the cafeteria in Rim Village.

Equipment rental. You can rent rowboats and fishing tackle at the boat landing at the foot of the Cleetwood Trail. Private boats are not permitted on the lake.

Mail. A branch post office is located in the administration building at park headquarters. Guests in the lodge or cabins at Rim Village should have mail addressed in care of Crater Lake Lodge. Others should have their mail addressed in care of General Delivery, Crater Lake, Ore.

Church. Protestant church services and Sunday school are conducted at Community House, Rim Village, and at the amphitheater in Mazama Campground. Services are posted on bulletin boards and are announced in campfire programs. Catholic services are held in nearby towns.

Tours. Launches make the trip to Wizard Island several times each day. A 2½-hour launch trip around the lake begins at the boat landing at scheduled hours during the boating season. Scenic bus tours around Rim Drive, begin-
Tranquility, in a setting formed by violent eruption.
Oregon State Highway Commission photo.

Wild animals. You may see bear, deer, and other animals. All are wild; some are dangerous. Watch them from a distance. Park regulations prohibit feeding deer or bear or molesting any animal. These regulations are enforced for your own safety.

Fishing. You may fish in park streams from June 15 to September 10, and in Crater Lake when the trail is open. No fishing license is required. The limit is 10 fish per day. You may not use or possess bait fish.

Preserving natural features. Other visitors will appreciate your consideration in leaving clean trails and roadsides. Trash containers are provided along roads. Every natural thing—flowers, trees, rocks, wildlife—is to be left undisturbed for others to enjoy. Take from here only pictures and pleasant memories; leave only traces of your footsteps.

ADMINISTRATION
Crater Lake National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.
The National Park System, of which this park is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.