

How deep is the lake?

At a depth of 1,943 feet, Crater Lake is the seventh deepest lake in the world and holds the world record for clarity among great lakes. Clarence Dutton of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) led the first recorded attempt to measure the depth of the lake in 1886, accompanied by the lake's biggest champion, Will Steel. Steel hoped scientific study would prove the unique nature of Crater Lake and strengthen his case for Crater Lake to become a National Park. When Dutton, Steel and their crew took the first trial "soundings" of the lake bottom, using piano wire, they measured the depth of the lake at 1,996 feet! Little could they fathom, however, the complex and rich opportunities Crater Lake and the area around it could offer scientists for centuries to come. In 2000, a U.S. Army Reserve Chinook helicopter lowered the 26-foot Surf Surveyor onto the lake to begin its research. Compared to the almost 200 soundings completed in 1886, over 16 million soundings were taken in 2000, calculating the maximum depth to be 1,943 feet. The final digital map of the caldera bottom showed undiscovered vents and volcanic formations, making a huge contribution to the history of Mount Mazama and Crater Lake, and also to the scientific study of volcanoes and lakes worldwide.



The Crater Lake Story

As the sixth oldest National Park, Crater Lake National Park offers visitors glimpses into the geologic history of prehistoric North America. More than 7,700 years ago, the catastrophic eruption of Mt. Mazama created the caldera (the imploded mountain top) into which thousands of years of snow and rain fell – creating what we now know as Crater Lake. On May 22, 1902 the lake and its surroundings became one of our first National Parks thanks to the efforts of William Gladstone Steel, an Oregon settler and fervent advocate for preserving natural environments. In 2002, Crater Lake National Park celebrates its 100th birthday with a year-long Centennial Celebration.

Crater Lake National Park is celebrating 100 years as Oregon's only National Park. The Park's Centennial Celebration, **True Blue Forever**, includes a Park rededication ceremony, art exhibit, science symposium, commemorative license plate and more through October 2003.

Every year, half a million visitors come to Crater Lake National Park from all over the world to marvel at its magnificent blue water, enjoy the pristine beauty and learn about the Park's fascinating natural and cultural history.

Be a part of the Crater Lake National Park Centennial Celebration as it launches its vision for the next 100 years of recreation, education and exploration.

www.trueblueforever.org



Educational programs presented by:

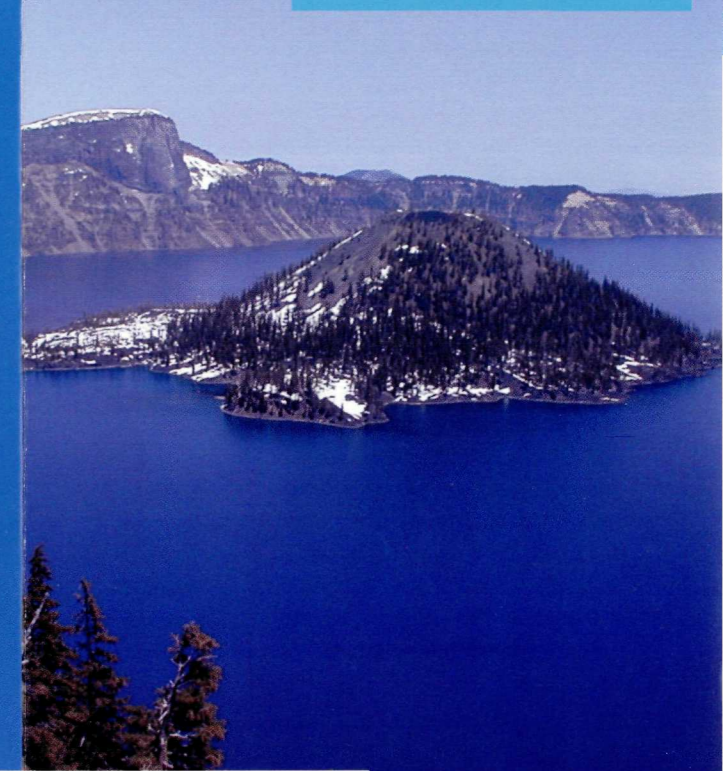
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Peter and Julie Stott
present

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

true blue forever



www.trueblueforever.org

Come celebrate

the 100th anniversary of
Oregon's only National Park





Experience: The Park for visitor use and enjoyment

Around the Rim

Rim Village and Rim Drive offer classic Crater Lake viewing experiences. From late June to mid-October, cars and bicycles can cruise the 33-mile Rim Drive encircling Crater Lake. More than 30 overlooks and picnic areas let you stop, look and ponder, while trailheads call you to explore higher or deeper into the Park. From November to April the drive becomes a cross-country ski adventure for the experienced and hearty.

On the Lake

On the north side of the lake, the Cleetwood Cove Trail provides the only safe and legal access to the lakeshore. The trail, named after the first scientific boat to explore the lake, is open only during the warm summer months. The trail is not recommended for people with walking, breathing or heart difficulties. The Cove itself provides opportunities for shore fishing and guided boat tours of Crater Lake. Weather permitting, guided boat tours stop at Wizard Island, the volcanic cone in the lake, where you can picnic, fish or hike. While volcanic evidence surrounds you at the Park, perhaps the most phenomenal remnants are the Pinnacles. By car or bicycle, the Pinnacles can be reached in the summer from Rim Drive on a paved, six mile road.

In the Forest

Apart from the developed and heavily visited Rim Village and Rim Drive, most of the Park is currently managed as federal wilderness. Crater Lake National Park features 100 miles of trails, many open for un-groomed skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. Camping adventures can be found in any part of the Park, including our two campgrounds. Garfield Peak, Mount Scott and Crater Peak all lie within the Park boundaries. Each have hiking trails to the summit, most of which can be hiked in a day or incorporated into a back-country trip. The lake covers seven percent of the Park's 183,224 acres. Forests, meadows, peaks and wildlife abound for the backcountry hiker, whether you seek nature, a view or just some peaceful quiet.

How much does it snow in the Park?

The National Park Service began recording weather information at Crater Lake National Park headquarters in 1926. The winter of 1932-1933 still holds the record for total snowfall in a single season, with 879 inches (2,230 cm). In 1950, Crater Lake set a state record for snowfall in a single calendar year, with 903 inches (2,294 cm). The Lake's surface froze completely in 1949.

What is fire ecology?

Fire is as much a part of the forests in Crater Lake National Park as are avalanches, wind-storms, native insect and disease outbreaks, and volcanoes. All of these naturally occurring forces play an important role in shaping the forest landscape. For as long as there have been forests, there have been fires. You can see the evidence of fires in scarred trees, charred wood, or charcoal in the soil. Fire management, including allowing small fires and ignited burns, prevents fuel such as twigs, branches, and dead logs from building up in the forest. Allowing these to burn in a controlled manner helps decrease the possibility of catastrophic wildfire. Officials at Crater Lake National Park work toward balancing the use of "controlled fire" and fire suppression. This has led to better management of the forests in the Park, and brought the Park closer to its goal of reestablishing the natural habitat of the forest.



Investigate: The Park as a laboratory

Scientists come from all over to study Crater Lake's open volcanic laboratory and the Park's vast old growth forests. The Lake's extraordinary depth, combined with a relatively small surface area and near-pristine water, make it similar to few other lakes in the world, providing a rare research opportunity. Recent research focuses on fire management, exploring the lake's depths, and understanding the complex interplay of the lake and Park's unique ecosystems. As the steward of this national jewel, the National Park Service uses research to help preserve the resources found within so that they may be enjoyed and understood by future visitors.

Launched to celebrate the Park's Centennial, a new Science and Learning Center at Crater Lake will make the National Park's scientific and cultural heritage widely available. Through partnerships that incorporate public and private funding, this center will support research activities, accumulate and synthesize information, and share that information and understanding directly with the public.

Learn: The Park as an outdoor classroom

In the Park, learning experiences await down each trail and around each curve. Start at the Steel Information Center, where a short movie and exhibits introduce you to the Park, its history and the natural world. Then, investigate the Park's many natural and cultural resources, either on your own or through our Ranger Programs. You can wander through old growth forests, learn about the Park's endangered wildlife, enjoy the colorful quiet of a wildflower garden, examine historical architecture, scale a mountain peak for a stellar view or travel around the lake in search of its volcanic history.

Ranger Programs, held daily in the summer and on weekends in the winter, will open your eyes to the science and history behind the phenomenal scenery all around you at the Park either on a hike, on the lake or around the rim. Park brochures, available at the Park Visitor Centers, lead you on self-guided hikes.

Reflect and inspire

People have come for centuries to the area that is now Crater Lake National Park to meditate, find spiritual power or simply to reflect. The Klamath, Modoc and Cow Creek branch of the Umpqua tribes all have spiritual associations with Crater Lake. In Native American culture, Crater Lake exists as part of a spiritual world of nature, from which a person could gain power, insight or revelation. Although represented or understood differently in various cultures and minds, the serenity of the lake and the forest's quiet paths have inspired and provided sources of reflection for people from many backgrounds year round.

"All ingenuity of nature seems to have been exerted to the fullest capacity to build a grand awe-inspiring temple the likes of which the world has never seen before." —Will Steel

Why is the lake so blue?

The dramatic color of Crater Lake is the result of its great depth, the purity and clarity of its water, and the way light interacts with water. Water molecules absorb the longer wavelengths of light better (reds, oranges, yellows, and greens). Shorter wavelengths (blues) are redirected back up to the surface, and, because of the clear, clean water, we see that phenomenal blue. Since the lake is filled almost entirely by snowfall, it is incredibly pure. Sunlight is able to penetrate the water of Crater Lake to great depths. For most lakes, clarity deeper than 100 feet (30 meters) is rare, but on June 25, 1997, scientists recorded a world record clarity reading of 142 feet (43.3 meters)!