



# Lassen Volcanic National Park



photo by D. Schlom

**Did you know that one of the world's largest plug dome volcanoes is just 40 miles east of Redding, California?** Lassen Peak is one of many highlights along the 30 mile scenic drive through Lassen Volcanic National Park. The scenic drive is part of the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway and was designed to showcase many of the natural features and geologic wonders found in the park.

The air is much cooler in Lassen Volcanic National Park, and often Lassen Peak is flanked with snow well into the month of August. Even though the air is cool, the ground can be hot in some places, with bubbling mudpots, boiling springs, and hissing steam vents dotting the landscape and reeking of rotten eggs. Visit the Sulphur Works (a short stop along the main park road) or venture out on the three-mile round-trip hike to the park's largest hydrothermal basin, Bumpass Hell. Also featured are:

- dozens of mountain lakes just waiting for you to explore, with most lakes open for non-motorized boat traffic.
- eight developed campgrounds.
- over 150 miles of hiking trails.
- a vast backcountry for wilderness camping, cross-country and telemark skiing, snowshoeing, and snow camping.

For more information contact:

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Bumpass Hell

## Accessing the Park

Lassen Volcanic National Park provides a wealth of fun activities that are as varied as the seasons. Your access to the interior of the park is dependent upon the winter's total snowfall which influences the spring/summer road opening dates. Please visit the park webpage at [www.nps.gov/lavo](http://www.nps.gov/lavo) and click on current conditions for up-to-date information.

### **Winter: approximately November to April**

The park is snowbound and cold. Solitude is abundant. The main park road (Hwy 89) is only open to the Southwest Area (1 mile from the southwest entrance) and the Loomis Ranger station (0.5 miles from the northwest entrance).

### **Spring: approximately April to June**

The weather is warming up though the nights can still be below freezing. The higher elevations are still snow-filled. Higher elevation lakes begin to thaw. Conditions permitting, the road begins to open.

### **Summer: approximately June to mid-September**

The park is sunny and dry, with cool nights. Lower elevation trails are mostly clear by July. In heavy snowfall years, snow can linger on trails above 8000 feet until late August. The main park road typically opens by mid-June. Campgrounds may fill on weekends. Ranger programs are in full swing by late June until late August.

### **Fall: approximately mid-September to November**

The park is mild during the day and cool at night with a potential for thunderstorms. Light snows that melt off may begin in October. The trails are usually still clear. The main park road is open until November, weather permitting.

