

United States
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Pinnacles National Monument
Paicines, California 95043
(408) 389-4578

HIKING AND CAMPING INFORMATION

Pinnacles National Monument is administered by the National Park Service. An entrance fee of \$1.00 is charged. The Monument is separated into an east and west district with visitor service facilities located in both districts. Park Headquarters and the Bear Gulch Visitor Center are located on the east side of the Monument and are reached via State Highway 25. The Chaparral Ranger Station and campground are located on the west side and are reached via State Highway 146 from Soledad. The road from Soledad to west Pinnacles is narrow; visitors driving large campers and towing trailers should use extreme caution. There is no through road connecting east and west sides of the Monument.

TRAVEL SEASON

The Monument is open all year. However, the main travel seasons are during the fall and spring months. In July and August, the daytime temperatures may reach 100 degrees or more, although the evenings are comfortable. December, January, and February are usually the wet months, when most of the annual rainfall occurs. Travel to the park is extremely heavy on weekends during the fall and spring and on holiday, causing considerable traffic congestion. Campsites fill up rapidly on Friday nights, making it difficult to find vacant sites on Saturday.

WEST SIDE CAMPING: Chaparral Campground (NPS)

Twenty-four walk-in sites are available. Camping fees are \$2.00 per night. Picnic tables, fireplaces, water, and modern comfort stations are provided. Reservations are not accepted, and no organized group camping is available. A maximum of eight people per campsite is allowed. Camping is limited to seven nights between February 15 and June 15. During the remainder of the year, the limit is fourteen nights. No gasoline, food or other supplies are available.

EAST SIDE CAMPING: Pinnacles Campground (private)

Both National Park Service campgrounds on the east side were closed permanently on January 1, 1979. The privately-operated campground is located off State Highway 146, immediately outside the Monument boundary. Picnic tables, fireplaces, water, and modern comfort stations are provided. Both family and group camping sites are available. Group reservations may be made by calling (408) 389-4462 or by writing to: Pinnacles Campground, Inc., 2400 Highway 146 Paicines, CA 95043. Gasoline, food and other supplies are available at the Camper Supply Store. Check with Pinnacles Campground, Inc. for seasonal hours.

BACKCOUNTRY USE

Backcountry camping is not allowed because of the relatively small size and fragile nature of the area. There are 26 miles of hiking trails in the Monument for DAY USE ONLY. Cave touring, technical rock climbing, and hiking are popular activities among backcountry users.

SAFETY

Accidents causing serious injury to park visitors are becoming all too frequent. Falls from rock formations, and while hiking through the talus caves, are common. All park animals are wild and may inflict a serious bite; they should be enjoyed at a distance. Please use common sense and equipment suited to the activities you participate in.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Campfire programs are regularly presented year round on weekend evenings. Nature walks, wildlife demonstrations and special environment programs are offered on weekends and by special arrangement. A schedule of interpretive activities is available at the park.

REGULATIONS

Pinnacles is a unique and fragile area. Regulations designed to protect the park resources and the visitor are enforced by park rangers. It is the visitor's responsibility to know and obey the regulations of the Monument. Important regulations are listed below and additional information is available from park rangers.

1. Fires: Open fires are permitted only in established metal fire grates in picnic areas and campgrounds. They cannot be left unattended and must be extinguished before leaving. Bring your own fuel. The gathering of vegetation, even dead or down fuel, is prohibited. Firewood is sold on both sides of the park.
2. Pets: Dogs, cats, and other pets must be kept on a leash at all times. They cannot be taken on any trails, or away from roads and developed areas.
3. Hunting: Hunting or shooting is not permitted in the Monument. Weapons of any type, including bows & arrows, firearms, sling shots or air rifles are prohibited.
4. Vehicles: All vehicles (including bicycles and mopeds) are restricted to paved road surfaces. No vehicle may be taken on trails or off the established roadway. All motorbikes must be licensed and operators must have a valid State operators permit. The maximum speed limit in the Monument is 25 mph. Be careful of pedestrians and wildlife on the roads.
5. Sanitation: Please take care of your park and don't litter! Do not wash pots & pans, clothing or other household articles at hydrants or water stations. Dispose of garbage in proper containers first. Wash in a dishpan at your campsite and dispose of dishwater in the service sink at restrooms.

RECYCLING

Help to conserve our natural resources. Blue and green aluminum recycling cans are located around the park.