Day Hikes Crater Lake National Park



The following is a partial list of day hikes at Crater Lake National Park. The list is organized according to estimated time length for completing the hike. Please note that the steep terrain of Crater Lake National Park means time, length and difficulty are not directly related. Times given are estimates of how long it will take to complete the trail and return to the trailhead. Trails listed as strenuous should be taken only by people in good physical condition.

SHORT HIKES (15 to 45 minutes)

Sun Notch Viewpoint Time: 20 min. Length: 0.25 mile one way. Elevation: 7000 to 7115 ft. Difficulty: moderate. Trailhead: 4 miles east of Park HQ on East Rim Drive, marked by a sign. Features: Overlook of Crater Lake and Phantom Ship, scattered wildflowers, dry meadow. Use caution near steep edges.

Godfrey Glen

Time: 30 min. Length: 1 mile. Elevation: 6000 to 6050 ft. Difficulty: easy. Trailhead: 2.4 miles south of Park HQ. Features: Old growth forests and views of Annie Creek Canyon.

Castle Crest Wildflower Garden

Time: 30 to 45 min. Length: 0.4 mile loop from Rim Drive. 1 mile loop from Park HQ. Elevation: 6400 to 6500 ft. Difficulty: Easy, but some uneven ground and rocks. Trailhead: 1) East Rim Drive, 0.5 miles from park HQ, or 2) Across road from Park HQ parking lot. Features: Small brook, lush vegetation, and spectacular blooms of wildflowers in summer months.

MEDIUM HIKES (1 to 2 hours)

The Watchman Time: 1 hour. Length: 0.7 miles, one way. Elevation: 7400 to 8056 ft. Difficulty: difficult, steep. Trailhead: "The Corrals", 3.7 miles northwest of Rim Village. Features: Panorama of surrounding area, overlook of Wizard Island and a historic fire lookout.

Discovery Point

Time: 1 hour. Length: 1.3 miles, one way. Elevation: 7050 to 7150 ft. Difficulty: easy. Trailhead: West end of Rim Village parking area. Features: Views of lake and a plaque commemorating John Wesley Hillman's 1853 "discovery" of Crater Lake.

MEDIUM HIKES (cont.)

Annie Creek Canyon Time: 1 hour and 15 min. Length: 1.7 mile loop. Elevation: 5800 to 6000 ft. Difficulty: moderate. Trailhead: Amphitheatre at Mazama Campground. Features: Deep stream cut canyon, creek habitats, wildflowers and occasional animals.

Cleetwood Cove (lake shore trail)

Time: 1 hour. Length: 1.1 miles, one way. Elevation: 6850 to 6176 ft. Difficulty: strenuous, 11% grade. Trailhead: Parking area 4.5 mi. east of North Junction. Features: Access to lake shore and boat landing.

LONGER HIKES (2 hours or more)

Garfield Peak Time: 2 to 3 hours. Length: 1.7 miles, one way. Elevation: 7050 to 8060 ft. Difficulty: difficult. Features: Panorama of surrounding area, excellent views of Crater Lake, occasional small animals, wildflowers, and an overhead view of Phantom Ship.

Mt. Scott

Time: 3 hours. Length: 2.5 miles, one way. Elevation: 7450 to 8929 ft. Difficulty: strenuous. Trailhead: 14 miles east of Park HQ, across East Rim Drive from road to Cloudcap junction. Features: Highest point in park, lake view, and a panorama of eastern park and Klamath Basin.

Wizard Island Summit

Time: 1+ hour, not including time for travel from Cleetwood boat docks to the island. Length: 0.9 mile Elevation: 6176 to 6940 ft. Difficulty: Moderate. Trailhead: Wizard Islandboat dock. Features: Panorama of the inside of the caldera, 90ft deep crater at the top of the island.

