

Crater Lake National Park



Visit America's Deepest Lake

With a depth of 1,943 feet, Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States—and one of the most beautiful. The water's intense blue color is an indication of its great depth and purity. Surrounded by cliffs, the lake is fed entirely by rain and snow. Scientists consider Crater Lake to be the cleanest and clearest large body of water in the world.

Explore a Collapsed Volcano

Crater Lake rests in the belly of a dormant volcano. The volcano once stood 12,000 feet tall, but it collapsed after a major eruption 7,700 years ago. Later eruptions formed Wizard Island, a cinder cone that rises from the water. The park has an abundance of fascinating volcanic features, including a second rocky island, the Phantom Ship.

Experience Old-Growth Forests

Crater Lake itself occupies less than 10% of the park. Beyond the lake, old-growth forests blanket the landscape. Established in 1902, the park protects 15 species of conifers, from towering ponderosa pines to ancient whitebark pines. These trees shelter a wide array of wildlife, including black bears, mountain lions, elk, and spotted owls.





Hours & Seasons

The park is open year-round, 24 hours a day. From October to July, however, some roads, trails, and facilities are closed by snow. Crater Lake sits at the crest of the Cascade Range and receives 44 feet of snow in an average winter! Before you visit, call or go online to learn what's open.

Things To Do

- Lake viewing (year-round, unless hidden by clouds)
- Driving & bicycling around the lake (July to late Oct.)
- Boat tours (late June to mid-September)
- Hiking (mid-June to mid-October)
- Snowshoeing & cross-country skiing (mid-Nov. to June)
- Viewing the park film (year-round)
- Swimming & fishing (mid-June to mid-October)
- Night sky viewing (year-round, weather permitting)
- Sunrise/sunset viewing (year-round, weather permitting)
- Ranger talks & trolley tours (late June to early October)
- Ranger-led snowshoe walks (late Nov. to late April)
- Lodging & camping (mid-May to mid-October)



For More Information:

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