

## Information for Groups



### General Information

#### FACILITIES

The visitor center is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from Labor Day through mid-June, and 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. during the summer. The visitor center offers a five minute video on the volcanic events that created Craters of the Moon. Seating is limited to 6 people, with space for others to stand. There are also displays on the geology, history, and ecology of the monument. A book store carries books, postcards, posters, videos, slides, film, and other items for sale. A complete list of sales items and prices is available upon request.

There are restrooms at the visitor center, and privies at the Caves Area, Devil's Orchard, and Tree Molds parking lots. There is no drinking water beyond the visitor center. Picnic facilities are available in the campground and outside the visitor center.

#### GROUP CAMPGROUND

Craters of the Moon has a group campground, located north of the highway in a sheltered spot at the base of Sunset Cone. The group campground offers the advantages of privacy and seclusion. While campfires are not permitted in the regular campground, you may have a fire in the group campground, provided you haul in your own wood. The group campground is rustic, with a privy and a spigot for water. There is a flat fee of \$30 per night for use of the group campsite. Maximum group size is 30.

Reservations are required and can be made by writing to:

Chief Ranger  
Craters of the Moon  
P.O. Box 29  
Arco, ID 83213

#### PARKING

If you stop at the visitor center, please use the second parking lot as you enter from highway 93. Follow the signs for "Bus and RV Parking." All parking lots on the Loop Drive are designed so you can pull in and out without turning around. Please take care not to block other vehicles.

### Commercial Bus Tours

#### LOOP DRIVE

The Loop Drive winds past lava flows and cinder cones, and provides access to a number of hiking trails. Approximate driving time is 30 minutes. Beyond Devil's Orchard the Loop Drive is a single lane, one-way road. The following trails are well-suited to large groups, senior citizens, and those with limited time.

##### • The Spatter Cones

These miniature, steep-sided cones formed as pasty blobs of lava sputtered from a fissure and piled up around the opening. They are located adjacent to the parking lot.

##### • The North Crater Flow Trail

This short, paved trail takes you onto the North Crater Flow, a pahoehoe flow that spilled from the North Crater vent about 2,100 years ago.

Signs along the trail introduce other typical features: pressure ridges, squeeze ups, a'a lava, and rafted blocks.

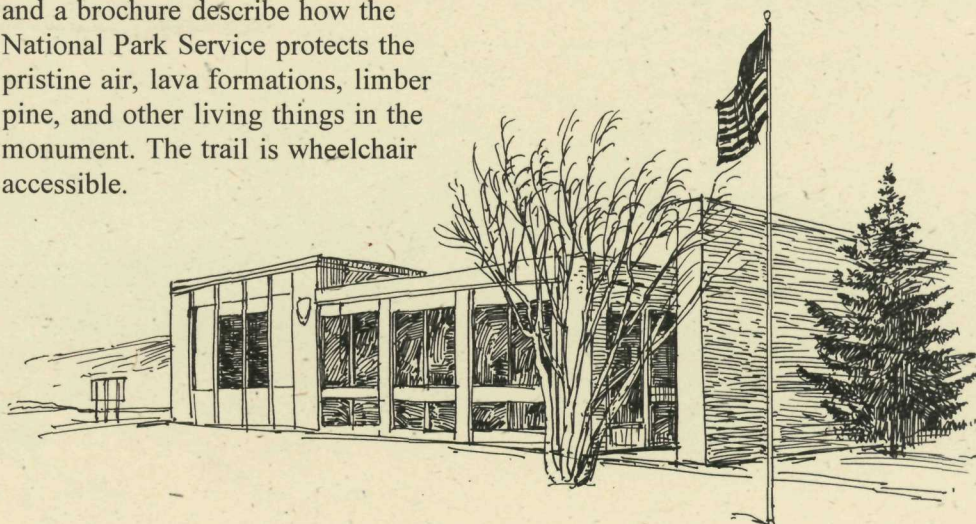
##### • Devil's Orchard

This ½-mile paved trail explores an area of cinder beds scattered with pieces of the North Crater wall. Signs and a brochure describe how the National Park Service protects the pristine air, lava formations, limber pine, and other living things in the monument. The trail is wheelchair accessible.

#### FEES

The entrance station is ¼-mile beyond the visitor center. The fee for commercial buses is based on capacity, not actual number of passengers.

<u>Passenger Capacity</u>	<u>Fee</u>
1-6	\$30.00
7-25	\$45.00
26 and over	\$100.00





## School Groups

### SERVICES WE PROVIDE

Craters of the Moon offers an ideal setting for children to learn about volcanism. Lava flows, cinder cones, lava tubes, and other features of fissure eruptions are concentrated in a small and accessible area. Each spring and fall more than 3,000 children visit Craters of the Moon on field trips.

Due to the high number and large size of school groups, the National Park Service cannot provide a ranger to accompany every group. Instead, we focus on providing teachers with the resources they need to plan and lead a successful visit themselves. These services include the following:

- If staffing permits, we will greet your students when you arrive with a 15 minute orientation to the volcanic geology of the area. Reservations are required.

- We have developed two curriculums, which we provide to teachers free of charge. The "Teacher's Guide to Craters of the Moon" describes monument geology, ecology, and history for grades 5-6. It contains background information and activities to be completed in the classroom and on site. "Managing Critical Resources" is a curriculum for high school students which focuses on threats to monument resources. It contains hands-on activities for use both at the monument and in the classroom.

- We have distributed "resource chests" to school districts throughout southern Idaho. These contain books, maps, slides, videos, and rock samples. They are intended to assist teachers with classroom preparation for a Craters of the Moon visit.

Teachers in a school district without a resource chest may borrow one directly from the monument.

- Every other year the National Park Service and Idaho State University combine forces to offer a four-day teachers workshop on Craters of the Moon geology, plant and animal life. The monument staff also offers a one-day workshop each spring to familiarize teachers with monument geology and trails.

If you would like to schedule an orientation talk or need further information on any of these services, contact the Environmental Education Coordinator at (208)527-3257.

### FEES

The monument charges an entrance fee from early June through mid-September. School groups visiting for educational purposes are exempt from this fee. To request a fee waiver during that time period, write a letter on your school stationery describing the purpose and date of your visit.

Send it to:

Chief Ranger  
Craters of the Moon  
P.O. Box 29  
Arco, ID 83213

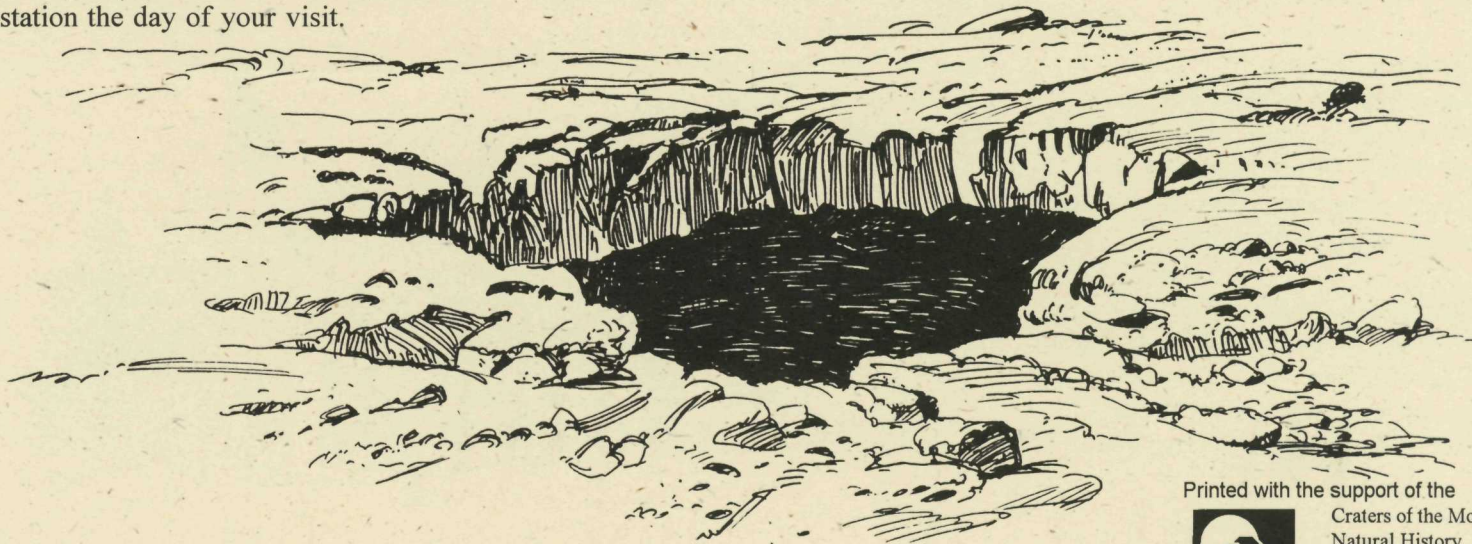
You will receive a fee waiver in return, to be shown at the entrance station the day of your visit.

### STUDENT CONDUCT

Please discuss the following regulations with your students before your arrival. All natural features within Craters of the Moon are protected. Collecting rocks and other objects is prohibited. Because climbing on the fragile lava rock can cause irreversible damage, all visitors to the North Crater Flow, Spatters Cones, and Big Crater must stay on the paved walkways. Dispose of all litter properly.

### WHAT TO BRING

The weather may be cool, windy and damp at any time of year. Students should bring a warm jacket, sturdy shoes, rain gear if the weather is threatening, and a flashlight if you plan to visit the caves area. You cannot purchase food at the monument, so make sure everyone packs a lunch.



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