



Accessibility Guide



Enjoy the Great Basin!

Great Basin National Park lies at the heart of the 200,000 square mile Great Basin physiographic region. This vast area is defined by its waterways draining not into the sea, but into the desert flats. It is one of the least known and least visited areas in the west. The 77,100 acre park is a unique, diverse, and beautiful area. Elevations within the park range from 6,200 feet with pinyon/juniper woodlands to the 13,063 alpine summit of Wheeler Peak. This wild landscape, rich in natural and cultural history, is a wonderful place to spend the day or a week! Great Basin National Park offers a variety of opportunities to enjoy the area for those persons with disabilities. Much can be learned about Great Basin National Park from your vehicle and from facilities and programs that are accessible.

Visitor Center

The Visitor Center is fully accessible. The lobby, information desk, book sales area, Lehman Caves Cafe and Gift Shop, exhibits, and audiovisual programs are all on one level, which can be reached from the parking lot via a vertical platform lift. Ranger activities held in or near the Visitor Center, such as patio talks, are also on this level. The Great Basin National Park slide show is captioned. A wheelchair is available for use in the Visitor Center and for

entry into the first room of Lehman Caves. Ask for availability at the front desk.

Parking and Rest Rooms

Designated parking spaces are available at the Visitor Center with a ramp over the curb. Ride the lift up to the main Visitor Center level, and enjoy the mural depicting the park on the way up. A drinking fountain, pay phone and unisex rest room are all available at this level.

Fees

Golden Access Passport holders are entitled to receive a 50% discount on camping and cave tour fees. Inquire at the Visitor Center information desk about this lifetime pass that is available at no cost for U.S.

Citizens and permanent residents who have been medically determined to be blind or permanently disabled.

Camping and Picknicking

There are three campgrounds within the park that have accessible sites. These campsites are generally located next to accessible rest rooms, and each has a picnic table, fire grate, and tent pad. Check at the Visitor Center on water availability. Camping is on a first-come, first-served basis. When the campgrounds fill, these sites are made available for all campers.

The picnic area near the Visitor Center has accessible rest rooms and a cut curb provides access to a table and fire grate.

Note: Persons using the Upper Lehman Creek Campground rest room access ramp may require assistance, due to its steepness.

Campground	Site #
Baker Creek	11 & 27
Upper Lehman Creek	2
Wheeler Peak	5

Lehman Cave Tours

Tours through Lehman Caves are offered throughout the year. Visitors in wheelchairs can access the first room of the cave, the Gothic Palace, where one can view many spectacular cave formations. The slope of the trail is steep and assistance is necessary to safely get into and out of the

first room. Visitors with poor vision should be aware of the low lighting in the cave. This lighting scheme is designed to accentuate the cave features and aid in resource protection by reducing algae growth in the cave.

Ranger-led Activities

The park and Visitor Center are staffed throughout the year, and the Rangers are available to answer questions about park resources and the surrounding area. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, there are a variety of Ranger-guided activities. Evening programs are offered during this time at accessible amphitheatres and are a wonderful way to wrap up a day in Great Basin National Park. At the Visitor Center,

15 minute Patio Talks cover a wide variety of subjects about the natural and cultural resources of the Great Basin. Several other programs are accessible with assistance to visitors using wheelchairs. For more information on these programs, their times and locations, inquire at the Visitor Center or consult the park newspaper, *The Bristlecone*.

Seeing the Park***Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive***

This 12 mile drive is an ideal way to gain an appreciation of the various plant communities and their diverse beauty as you wind your way to an elevation of 10,000 feet. There are several overlooks that have good “windshield” viewing points and interpretive pullouts. The Wheeler Peak Overlook and Mather Overlook offer breathtaking views of the valley below and Wheeler Peak above. The Osceola Ditch pullout has an accessible, roadside exhibit that offers a glimpse back to 1889-90, when an 18 mile ditch was constructed to divert water for placer gold mining. The road is closed in the winter.

Baker Creek Road

Baker Creek Road has a well-maintained gravel surface with excellent views of Wheeler Peak, the Baker Creek drainage and Snake Valley below. There are no pullouts or overlooks. The road ends at the Baker/Johnson Lake Trailhead where in the early summer, the wildflowers are plentiful and colorful. The road is closed in the winter.

Information about lesser maintained roads can be obtained at the Visitor Center.

The Spruce-Limber Trail

At the terminus of the scenic drive is a 0.2 mile trail that winds through mixed conifer and aspen communities. The first half of the trail maintains a 1% grade. At the end of the first portion, there is the option of turning around or continuing on the loop. Sections on the second part of the loop are as steep as an 8% grade in places, making this half of the trail a bit more challenging.

Along the trail you will see Englemann spruce, limber pine, and quaking aspen. The trail also passes by meadow openings in the forest; keep your eyes open for the various sub-alpine inhabitants who may present themselves, such as mule deer or ground squirrels. Watch for birds that frequent this forest mosaic environment, such as the Stellar’s jay, the mountain chickadee, and the Clark’s nutcracker.

Assisted Listening Devices

Assisted listening devices are available for use with any Ranger-led programs including cave walks, Bristlecone hikes, evening programs, kids programs, and patio talks.

Talk to a Park Ranger at the Visitor Center about using one before the start of the program.

Recreational Hazards

Be aware of hazards that exist while seeing the park, such as hypothermia, altitude sickness, dehydration, and extreme changes in weather. Inquire at the Visitor Center for more information concerning these and other hazards.