



Peak Experiences

June - November 2012



Milk Way Over Manzanita Lake and Lassen Peak © Wally Pacholka

Between Earthly and Divine

Contributed by Ranger Kevin Sweeney

An echoing "who, who, who" interrupts the stillness of a warm summer night. The captivating call of a great horned owl awakens a junior ranger tucked tightly into her sleeping bag. Her curiosity sparked, the junior ranger nervously considers leaving the tent to explore the black, silent night. She is adventurous and brave; she takes a deep breath, quietly unzips the tent door, and steps into the darkness.

Hesitantly, she takes a few blind steps into the unknown. As her eyes begin to adjust, she spots the tents of other campers at the base of giant pine trees. Searching for the nocturnal caller, she notices a bright cloud high in the sky. Mesmerized, the junior ranger walks toward an opening in the trees to gaze upon the glittering light stretched across the dark sky. As the cloud grows ever-brighter, she realizes that the "cloud" is actually made of stars. "Could it be?" she wonders. "This must be the Milky Way!"

The junior ranger is proud to recognize this divine wonder, which she was never able to see in her own brightly-lit town. She marvels at the majesty of the night sky in the park, away from lights. Stretching out on a bed of fragrant pine needles, her eyes probe the blanket of stars and she begins to notice that the night sky is in 3-D! Some stars appear closer while others seem much farther away. Suddenly, a flash of bright green streaks across the sky; she gasps in amazement, her breath caught by the sight of her first shooting star.

Perched high in the realm between earthly and divine, the great horned owl stares into the clear, dark night. Silently, he spreads his wings and soars into the darkness, leaving the junior ranger lying spellbound by the awesome sight of our beautiful universe.

Welcome to the Outer Limits

...of Lassen Volcanic National Park, that is! High elevations, superior air quality, and limited artificial lighting provide an ideal destination for exploring the realm between the earthly and divine.

This summer, I invite you to join Lassen Volcanic in celebrating our incredible night sky. To begin your exploration of Lassen's outer limits, consider joining an astronomy program for spectacular events such as the annular solar eclipse, the transit of Venus across the sun, or a hike to the summit of Lassen Peak in the glow of a full moon on one of four selected dates (page 12). In August, join us for our Dark Sky Festival and celebrate our view from spaceship Earth.

When it is a little too bright out to enjoy the night sky, I invite you to enjoy Lassen's wildflower-freckled trails, tumbling waterfalls, and clear alpine lakes. It is difficult to describe what a day or two in your national park will do for you – quiet your mind, give you perspective, challenge you, and just make you feel good. Try it!

Darlene Koontz,
Superintendent



This visitor guide is made possible through the support of the Lassen Association.

www.lassenassociation.org

General Information



Lassen Volcanic National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center

Phone: (530) 595-4480 (year-round)

Fax: (530) 595-4477

Loomis Museum

Phone: (530) 595-6140 (summer only)

Fax: (530) 595-6149

Website

www.nps.gov/lavo

Email Address

lavo_information@nps.gov

Mailing Address

Lassen Volcanic National Park

P.O. Box 100

Mineral, CA 96063-0100

Social Media

www.facebook.com/LassenNPS

www.youtube.com/LassenNPS

www.twitter.com/LassenNPS



Visitors scope out a bear in Little Hot Springs Valley

Emergency

If you have an emergency call 911. If phone service is not available, contact a park employee or go to a visitor center.

Pets in the Park

Activities with pets are limited at Lassen Volcanic. Pets must be restrained at all times and are not permitted on hiking trails, in the park backcountry, in any body of water, or inside visitor centers or other park facilities. A good rule of thumb is that a pet may go anywhere a car may go: roads and road shoulders, campgrounds, picnic areas, and parking lots. For your pets' safety, do not leave them in vehicles when temperatures are high; they can die of heat exhaustion. Vast public lands nearby offer great hiking with pets. Ask a ranger for information on local hiking trails that allow pets.

Share the Road

Park roads are narrow and winding. Do not stop in the roadway – save sightseeing for designated viewpoints. Watch for pedestrians, bicycles, and wildlife. Ensure a minimum distance of three feet (one meter) when passing.

Bicycles

Bikes are permitted only on roads, not on hiking trails. Ride single file, and be attentive to passing cars and recreational vehicles that may not be aware of cyclists. There are no shoulders or bike lanes on Lassen Volcanic National Park Highway.

Accessibility

Accessible facilities include the Loomis Museum, Manzanita Lake Camper Store, and the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center. Wheelchair-accessible restrooms are located at Loomis Plaza, Summit Lake and Kings Creek picnic areas, Bumpass Hell parking area, Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, Devastated area trail, and Sulphur Works. Wheelchair accessible paths include the Devastated Area interpretive trail, Sulphur Works area, and the Lassen Crossroads information area. Multiple scenic pullouts on the main park road have wheelchair accessible wayside exhibits. See page 4 for accessible campsites. An accessibility guide is available at visitor centers or online.

Phones

Cell phone coverage in the park is limited and unreliable. Pay phones are located outside the Manzanita Lake Camper Store and the Loomis Museum. An emergency phone is located in the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center.

Showers and Laundry

Coin-operated showers and laundry machines are available 24 hours a day at the Manzanita Lake Camper Store.

Gasoline

Gasoline is available at the Manzanita Lake Camper Store. Gasoline may be purchased with a credit card 24 hours a day from May 24 to October 8. Note that there is no gas available within 30 miles of the southwest entrance.

ATM

The Manzanita Lake Camper Store has an ATM.

Hydrothermal Area Safety

For your safety, please stay on established trails and boardwalks. The ground in hydrothermal areas can look solid but may actually be a thin crust hiding pools of acidic boiling water. Traveling off-trail in hydrothermal areas has resulted in severe injuries for previous visitors.

Fishing

California fishing regulations apply to all areas within Lassen Volcanic National Park. Additional fishing regulations apply at Manzanita Lake:

- Catch and release only.
- Artificial lures with a single barbless hook. No power bait.
- Manzanita Creek above Manzanita Lake is closed to fishing.

A California fishing license is not required on two free fishing days: July 7 and September 8, 2012.

Firearms

All California firearm laws apply at Lassen Volcanic National Park. Firearms are not permitted within any federal building. Carrying or possessing a loaded firearm, including within a vehicle, without a valid concealed carry weapons permit from a recognized state of California agency is prohibited. Openly carrying or possessing a loaded firearm, on one's person or in a vehicle, is prohibited.

Picnic Areas

Picnic areas are found throughout the park (see the map on page 22). Charcoal disposal is available at Kings Creek Picnic Area only.

Food Storage

Proper food storage will help keep our wild animals wild. Allowing a bear to obtain human food, even once, often results in aggressive bear behavior. Aggressive bears are a threat to human safety and must be relocated or destroyed. Do not feed bears or other wildlife for any reason. Failure to follow park food storage regulations is a violation of federal law. Help keep bears wild and humans safe. Remember, a fed bear is a dead bear.

- In campgrounds and cabins store all your scented items in food lockers. Only have the food out that you are actually using; if you are not using it, please put it back into the food locker.
- In picnic areas and on the trail, always keep your food within arm's reach and do not turn your back on your food. Never leave food unattended. Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when you are nearby, so be alert.

Weather

With elevations from 5,650 feet to 10,457 feet, a wide variety of weather conditions occur in Lassen Volcanic. Expect a 5° temperature decrease for every 1,000 foot increase in elevation. Prepare for your visit; bring layered clothing, a raincoat, and sunscreen.

Month	Average High/Low
May	70/29 °F
June	79/34 °F
July	84/40 °F
August	85/40 °F
September	78/36 °F
October	69/30 °F

Manzanita Lake Temperatures
5,900' (1798 m)



Camping Cabins and Kayak Rental

Spend the night in a rustic cabin at Manzanita Lake. Twenty new cabins offer basic accommodations for up to eight people. Learn more on page 5.

Kayak rentals are available in the Manzanita Lake Camper Store. Single and double kayaks are offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily on a first-come, first-served basis. The last rental is at 3 p.m. each day. Rates begin at \$14.25 per 1 hour or \$24 for 2 hours.



Campgrounds

First-Come, First-Served

All campgrounds, except for the group sites, have designated first-come, first-served campsites. You cannot reserve these sites, but they can fill up. You may not hold a site for someone who has not arrived.

Reservable Sites

Sites may be reserved in advance for certain campgrounds – see the chart below. For reservations call 1-877-444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov. Reservations are required for group campsites.

Stock Corrals

Stock corrals are available at Butte, Summit, and Juniper Lakes. Potable water is not available at Juniper Lake and Summit Lake Stock Corrals. Reservations are required; call 1-877-444-6777 or visit recreation.gov

Check-in & Check-out

Check-in any time, but sites may not be available until noon. Check-out time is noon.

Quiet Hours

Each visitor deserves to hear the natural sounds of this beautiful environment. Respect this by complying with the regulations: generator operation is prohibited from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.; quiet hours are 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Services and Dump Station

In-park services including pay showers, laundry and a dump station are available at the Manzanita Lake campground.

*Special Considerations

Roads to Juniper Lake, Warner Valley, and Butte Lake are rough gravel. Trailers are not advised on Juniper Lake and Warner Valley roads. **Potable water is not available at Butte Lake, Summit Lake South, or Warner Valley after September 18.** Lost Creek Group Sites are closed July 31 to August 7.

Campground	Elevation	# Sites	Season	Daily Fee	Accessible	Flush Toilets	Vault Toilets	Services	Boat Launch	Reservable	RV Sites
Butte Lake*	6100'	101	6/8 - 10/30	\$16	•	•	•		•	•	•
Crags	5700'	45	6/15 - 9/18	\$12			•				•
Juniper Lake*	6800'	18	6/29 - 10/16	\$10			•		•		
Manzanita Lake	5900'	179	5/25 - ^{snow} closure	\$18	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Summit Lake North	6700'	46	6/29 - 9/18	\$18	•	•			•	•	•
Summit Lake South*	6700'	48	6/29 - 10/30	\$16			•		•	•	•
Southwest Walk-In	6700'	20	Year-round	\$14		•	•				
Warner Valley*	5600'	18	6/15 - 10/30	\$14			•				•
Butte Lake Group Sites	6100'	6	6/8 - 9/18	\$50			•		•	•	•
Lost Creek Group Sites*	5900'	8	6/15 - 9/25	\$50			•			•	•
Manzanita Lake Group Sites	5900'	4	5/25 - ^{snow} closure	\$50		•	•	•	•	•	•
Juniper Lake Group Sites	6800'	2	6/29 - 9/18	\$30			•		•	•	
Butte Lake Stock Corral	6100'	1	6/8-9/18	\$35			•		•	•	
Juniper Lake Stock Corral	6800'	1	6/29-9/18	\$28			•		•	•	
Summit Lake Stock Corral	6700'	1	6/29-9/18	\$35			•		•	•	

Campfire Restrictions

Open fires are restricted to metal fire rings only. Gather only dead, down, and detached wood. Prevent wildfires – attend to campfires at all times and ensure your campfire is out cold before you leave.

Length of Stay

Camping is limited to 14 days per year, per campground, except at Summit and Juniper Lakes, which are limited to 7 days per year.

Discounts

Holders of Senior and Access passes receive a 50% discount on camping fees, except for group campsites

Campsite Capacities

A maximum of two vehicles are allowed at each campsite, except at designated group sites. A motorhome, tow vehicle, trailer, car, or truck counts as one vehicle. Campsite capacity is limited to six persons and three tents. Group campsite capacity is 25 persons per site. Group campsites at Juniper Lake Campground are restricted to tents with a maximum of 15 persons per site.

Overflow Camping

No overflow camping exists in the park; however, the park rarely fills all available campsites. Camping or overnight vehicle parking in pullouts, parking areas, picnic grounds, or any place other than a designated campground is not permitted.

Camping in Vehicles

Camping in vehicles is allowed in a designated area of the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center parking area with campground payment (a campsite is not required).

Services and Facilities



Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center

Southwest Area

6700' (2042 m) elevation. 50 miles east of Red Bluff on Highway 36 E, then 6 miles north on Highway 89.

Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center

Exhibits, park film, maps, and Lassen Association bookstore. Lassen Café & Gift offers supplies, gifts and food.

Visitor Center Hours **Lassen Cafe and Gift Hours**
5/1 to 5/30 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 5/24 to 9/2 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
6/1 to 9/3 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. 9/3 to 10/8 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Manzanita Lake Area

5900' (1798 m) elevation. 47 miles east of Redding on Highway 44, then one mile beyond the northwest park entrance.

Loomis Museum

Exhibits, park film, maps, and Lassen Association bookstore. Open 5/25 to 10/28, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Manzanita Lake Camper Store

Supplies, gifts, food and gasoline. Open 5/24 to 10/8, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except 6/16-9/2, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

Manzanita Lake Cabins

1-room, 2-room and bunk cabins for \$57 or \$81. Available 5/24 to 10/8. For reservations call: 1-877-444-6777. Check-in at Camper Store. After hours call (530) 335-7557 or manzanitalake@calparksco.com

Warner Valley Area

5600' (1707 m) elevation. 17 miles north of Chester.

Drakesbad Guest Ranch

Lodging, restaurant, thermal-heated pool, and horseback riding. Open 6/8 to 10/8, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For reservations call (888) 999-0914.



20% OFF LUNCH
UP TO 4 GUESTS

A delicious meal in a spectacular setting!
Take a scenic drive to Lassen's southeast area, and stop for lunch at Drakesbad Guest Ranch in Lassen's beautiful Warner Valley.

Reservations recommended: 866.999.0914
For more information: Drakesbad.com

Drakesbad GUEST RANCH

47 miles from the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center. 75 miles from the Manzanita Lake area. California Guest Services is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service. Must present coupon to receive discount, may not be combined with any other offer. Exp: 12/31/12

Astronomy Activities

Lassen Dark Sky Festival

Friday through Monday, August 10 through 13



Half the park is after dark! From animals to plants and water to volcanoes, Lassen Volcanic National Park protects many different natural phenomena. However, one of the most spectacular is frequently overlooked – our incredible, dark, night sky. Join park rangers, astronomers, and planetary geologists in celebrating all that is out of this world during Lassen’s first Dark Sky Festival.

Special programs, presentations, hikes, and Junior Ranger Night Explorer activities will be offered August 10 through 13.

Ring of Fire! Annular Solar Eclipse

Sunday, May 20

Eclipses Revealed!

A 45-minute program on the science of eclipses.
3 p.m. | Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center Auditorium

Ranger-led Eclipse Viewing

View this incredible event from the best spot in the park. Snowshoe or hike with a ranger, depending on the weather. Solar shades are required and available for purchase at the Lassen Association bookstore.
4 p.m. | Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center Entrance

Annular Solar Eclipse

Maximum eclipse occurs at 6:29 p.m., when 95% of the sun will be covered by the moon, giving the appearance of a ring of fire around the moon.
5 p.m. to 8 p.m. | Location to be determined

Transit of Venus across the Sun

Tuesday, June 5

Beginning just after 3 p.m., Venus will start to slowly move across the face of the sun. It will appear as a small black dot as it takes several hours to complete the journey, finishing after sunset. Special programs and solar scopes will be available for this rare event. The next transit of Venus won’t take place until 2117! Solar shades are required and available for purchase at the Lassen Association bookstore.



Nature Photography Workshop

Friday and Saturday, August 17 and 18

Join accomplished photographer and University of California, Davis instructor Terry Nathan for a two-day photography field seminar in Lassen’s Manzanita Lake area. Participants of all levels of experience are invited to improve their photography skills through hands-on instruction in Lassen’s stunning landscape.

The workshop includes a two-hour classroom presentation on the principles of lighting and composition, a six-hour hands-on field excursion, and a two-hour post photo shoot critique session. View examples of Terry’s work at www.terrynathanphoto.com.

For more information or to register, please call (530) 378-1495, email lassenassociation@yahoo.com, inquire at the Loomis Museum or Kohm Yah-mah-nee bookstores, or go online to go.nps.gov/workshops.



Wahkeena Creek © Terry Nathan

Special Events

Art & Wine of Lassen

Saturday, September 29

Celebrate local art, wine and music at Lassen Volcanic National Park. Returning for its third year, this popular event featuring local businesses is held at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center. Park admission is free September 29 in celebration of National Public Lands Day.



Explore Safely Trail Challenge

Labor Day Weekend | September 1 through 3



Get fit safely with the Lassen's first Explore Safely Trail Challenge! Explore your park at your pace and qualify for one of three different award levels. Complete at least one hike for each challenge with safety in mind to qualify for Explorer, Adventurer or Trail

Master. Participants will receive an Explore Safely bandana and certificate. Explore your park at the level that is safe for you!



Well-prepared hikers enjoy a lunch break on the Cinder Cone trail

A Passion for Lassen

Saturday, August 25

Join the Lassen Park Foundation for a special event to support the foundation and honor past directors. On the 96th anniversary of the National Park Service and Lassen Volcanic National Park, the foundation will host a 4 p.m. barbecue, cocktails, and auction at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center.

To learn more about this event please contact Martha McCoy, Executive Director at (530) 378-2600 or visit the foundation online at lassenparkfoundation.org.



Entrance Fees

Your park fees provide funding for park projects that improve and enhance the experience for park visitors. Managing public lands requires a major financial investment. While most of that investment comes from general tax revenues, those who directly use public lands for recreation derive a greater benefit from, and place a greater burden on, resources and facilities than the public at large. Applying use fees to projects at the area where they were collected assures that actual users pay an increased share of operational costs. Eighty percent of the fees collected at Lassen are returned to the park for specific projects.



1-7 Day Vehicle Fee - \$10

Valid for six days from date of purchase.

Passes

Annual passes can be obtained at park entrance stations, at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, by phone, or online. To purchase a Lassen Annual Pass visit www.pay.gov or call (530) 595-6120. To purchase an interagency pass, visit www.store.usgs.gov/pass or call 1-888-ASK-USGS, ext. 1.

Lassen Annual Pass - \$25

Valid for one year from month of purchase. Also honored at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

Interagency Annual Pass - \$80

Covers all national park units and other federal recreation areas with entrance fees. Valid for one year from month of purchase.

Interagency Access Pass - Free

Free lifetime pass for U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are permanently disabled.

Interagency Senior Pass - \$10

Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are 62 years or older.

Lassen Volcanic National Park



NPS Photo - I-Ting Chiang

Ranger-led Programs

Programs run from **June 15 to August 12, 2012.**

Check bulletin boards for programs scheduled from **August 13 to September 5, 2012.**

Programs are 45 minutes long unless otherwise noted. Exact program locations are noted in *italics*.

Monday		
10:30 a.m.	On the Wild Side	Manzanita Lake
11:00 a.m.	Inside of a Volcano	Sulphur Works
1:30 p.m.	Cougar	Manzanita Lake
Tuesday		
9:30 a.m.	Junior Rangers	Manzanita Lake
2:30 p.m.	Pioneers	Manzanita Lake
Wednesday		
9:30 a.m.	Lakes and Ponds	Manzanita Lake
10:30 a.m.	Volcanoes!	Manzanita Lake
2:00 p.m.	Bear Necessities	Manzanita Lake
7:30 p.m. (Jul) 7:00 p.m. (Aug)	Summit Lake Evening	Summit Lake
9:00 p.m.	Starry Nights	Devastated Area
Thursday		
9:30 a.m.	Wildlife Neighborhood	Manzanita Lake
11:00 a.m.	Inside of a Volcano	Sulphur Works
11:30 a.m.	Junior Firefighters	Manzanita Lake
1:30 p.m.	Stories in Stone	Manzanita Lake
3:30 p.m.	On the Wild Side	Kohm Yah-mah-nee
Friday		
9:30 a.m.	Wildlife Neighborhood	Manzanita Lake
11:00 a.m.	Inside of a Volcano	Sulphur Works
1:30 p.m.	On the Wild Side	Manzanita Lake
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Discovery Center	Discovery Center
3:30 p.m.	Bear Necessities	Kohm Yah-mah-nee
7:30 p.m. (Jul) 7:00 p.m. (Aug)	Summit Lake Evening	Summit Lake
9:00 p.m. (Jun-Jul) 8:30 p.m. (Aug)	Manzanita Lake Evening	Manzanita Lake

Saturday		
8:00 a.m.	Early Birds	Manzanita Lake
8:00 a.m.	Coffee with a Ranger	Manzanita Lake
9:30 a.m.	Junior Rangers	Manzanita Lake
11:00 a.m.	Inside of a Volcano	Sulphur Works
1:00 p.m.	Predator Prey	Manzanita Lake
2:00 p.m.	Inside of a Volcano	Bumpass Hell
2:00 p.m.	Junior Rangers	Kohm Yah-mah-nee
2:30 p.m.	Pioneers	Manzanita Lake
3:30 p.m.	On the Wild Side	Kohm Yah-mah-nee
7:30 p.m. (Jul) 7:00 p.m. (Aug)	Summit Lake Evening	Summit Lake
7:30 p.m.	Kohm Yah-mah-nee Evening	Kohm Yah-mah-nee
9:00 p.m. (Jun-Jul) 8:30 p.m. (Aug)	Manzanita Lake Evening	Manzanita Lake
9:00 p.m.	Starry Nights	Location varies
Sunday		
8:00 a.m.	Coffee with a Ranger	Manzanita Lake
9:30 a.m.	Sense of Wonder	Manzanita Lake
9:30 a.m.	Junior Rangers	Manzanita Lake
11:00 a.m.	Inside of a Volcano	Sulphur Works
1:30 p.m.	Volcanoes!	Loomis Museum
2:00 p.m.	Inside of a Volcano	Bumpass Hell
2:00 p.m.	Junior Rangers	Kohm Yah-mah-nee
3:30 p.m.	On the Wild Side	Kohm Yah-mah-nee

Program Descriptions

Bear Necessities

Learn about black bears and how you can help them stay wild in Lassen Volcanic. *Kohm Yah-mah-nee patio or outside Loomis Museum.*

Coffee with a Ranger

Join a park ranger for a casual talk. Ask questions and get the latest updates about trails and park activities. Bring your own coffee, tea, or purchase at the camper store. *Manzanita Lake Camper Store, 30 minutes.*



Special Astronomy Programs on page 6

Cougar: The American Mountain Lion

The majestic member of the cat family personifies strength, grace, mystery, and the wilderness spirit. *Outside Loomis Museum.*

Discovery Center

***Open for drop-in 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Check out the exhibits and join a park ranger for ongoing short programs and demonstrations on various natural history subjects. Inquire at the Loomis Museum for directions to the Discovery Center.

Early Birds

Take an easy walk and discover the birds of Manzanita Lake. *Manzanita Lake Camper Store, one hour.*

Inside a Volcano at Sulphur Works

Mudpots, fumaroles, and boiling pools... such features remind us that our planet is alive and constantly changing. Join a ranger and discover what drives Sulphur Works and learn about the secrets that make its features unique. *Sulphur Works, 30 minutes.*

Inside a Volcano at Bumpass Hell

***Offered only between July 14 and August 12**
Mudpots, fumaroles, and boiling pools... such features remind us that our planet is alive and constantly changing. Learn about the secrets that make each of Bumpass Hell's features unique. **Allow a 45 minute hike to the boardwalk.** *Bumpass Hell boardwalk, 30 minutes.*

It's a Wildlife Neighborhood

Join a park ranger for a casual walk on the Manzanita Lake trail and learn about the many species of birds and mammals that call Manzanita Lake their home. *Manzanita Lake Camper Store, 90 minutes.*

Junior Firefighters

If you are 7 to 12 years old, you can discover wildfire's role in our national parks and become a junior firefighter. *Outside Loomis Museum.*

Junior Rangers

If you are 7 to 12 years old, you can become a junior ranger by joining in this fun adventure. Learn about the park through games and outdoor activities. *Manzanita Lake Amphitheater, two hours or Kohm Yah-mah-nee Amphitheater, one hour.*

Kohm Yah-mah-nee Evening Program

Join a park ranger for an evening program about the park's natural or cultural history. *Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center.*

Lakes and Ponds

Join a park ranger for a casual walk to explore the hidden wonders of a lake and two ponds. *Outside Loomis Museum, one hour.*

Manzanita Lake Evening Program

June, July - 9:00 p.m., August - 8:30 p.m.

Join a park ranger for an evening program about the park's natural or cultural history. *Manzanita Lake Amphitheater*

On the Wild Side

Discover some of the "wilder sides" of the park during this program. Topics vary from the natural to the cultural history of the park. *Outside the Loomis Museum or Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, 30 minutes.*

Pioneers

It's 1853 along the wagon road called the Nobles Emigrant Trail. You will visit a pioneer camp and meet some rugged travelers who tell stories about their journey to California. *Manzanita Lake Amphitheater.*

Predator and Prey the Biodiversity Way

Learn about predator and prey animals in the park and hear stories about their connections in the web of life. *Outside Loomis Museum.*

Sense of Wonder

A special program for young children ages four to six. Emphasis on outdoor activities that promote nature awareness through the use of the senses. Parents are welcome but not required to attend. *Manzanita Lake Camper Store, 90 minutes.*

Starry Nights

Join a park ranger for a program on stars, planets, and constellations. Hear stories and learn to locate objects in the sky. *Locations vary; check at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center or Loomis Museum.*

Stories in Stone

Learn about the fascinating stories in stone that can be seen from the Manzanita Lake area. Examine the rocks that have shaped this volcanic landscape. *Outside Loomis Museum.*

Summit Lake Evening Program

July at 7:30 p.m., August at 7:00 p.m.

Join a park ranger for a lively program about the natural or cultural history of the park. *Summit Lake Amphitheater.*

Volcanoes!

Did you know that every mountain in the park is a volcano or part of one? Learn about the geology and volcanic history of the park. *Outside Loomis Museum.*

Wildlife Connections

Learn about the park's wildlife and hear stories about their amazing lifestyles. *Outside Loomis Museum.*

Programs are 45 minutes long unless otherwise noted

Hiking Trails

EASY TRAILS

Devastated Area

Start: Devastated Area parking area, 10 miles south of Loomis Museum.

Length: 0.5 miles (0.8 km) loop trail

Elevation Gain: None

Time: 30 minutes

Easy walk along a paved trail. Interpretive exhibits with audio description highlight the eruption of Lassen Peak with great views along the entire trail. Accessible to wheelchairs.



Lassen Peak and Crescent Crater from the Devastated Area trail

Manzanita Lake

Start: Pick up the trail from the Loomis Museum or Manzanita campground.

Length: 1.8 miles (2.9 km) loop

Elevation Gain: None

Time: 1 hour

Easy walk around the lake. Keep your eyes and ears alert; birds, trout, wildflowers, and wildlife can frequent the lake shore. Trail can be rocky at times. Enjoy catch and release fishing with excellent mountain views.

Hydrothermal Area Danger

For your safety, stay on established trails and boardwalks. Ground in hydrothermal areas can look solid but may actually be a thin crust hiding pools of acidic boiling water. Traveling off-trail in these areas may result in severe injury.



Stay on established trails to avoid injury

“It feels like I put my leg in a flame”

- Visitor injured at Devils Kitchen

MODERATE TRAILS



Bumpass Hell boardwalk

Bumpass Hell

Start: Bumpass Hell parking area, 6 miles from southwest entrance

Length: 3 miles (4.8 km) round trip

Elevation Gain: 300 feet (91 meters)

Time: 2 hours

Moderate hike over rocky terrain with grand vistas. The trail drops into an active hydrothermal basin where you can view mudpots and fumaroles. For your safety, please stay on the boardwalk.

Kings Creek Falls

Start: 17 miles south of Loomis Museum and 13 miles from southwest entrance

Length: 3 miles (4.8 km) round trip

Elevation Gain: 700 feet (213 meters)

Time: 2 hours

Moderate hike over rugged terrain and small rock formations. Trail forks at end of meadow. Waterfalls and wildflowers are spectacular in late spring. **The trail to the bottom of the cascade is closed for trail repair.**

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HIKING
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MODERATELY STRENUOUS TRAILS

Cinder Cone

Start: Butte Lake picnic area near the boat ramp

Length: 4 miles (6.4 km) round trip

Elevation Gain: 700 feet (213 meters)

Time: 3 hours

Hike begins along Fantastic Lava Beds, opens up with views of the Painted Dunes, and becomes a strenuous, steep climb with a loose cinder base to the summit. Trails circle and descend into the crater on the summit.



Panorama from above Ridge Lakes featuring Mt. Diller (left), 8,662 (right) and Mount Conard (center)

Terrace, Shadow and Cliff Lakes

Start: 10 miles from the southwest entrance between Lassen Peak parking area and Kings Creek

Length: 3.5 miles (5.6 km) round trip

Elevation Gain: 550 feet (168 meters)

Time: 3 hours

Hike alongside three mountain lakes: Terrace, Shadow, and Cliff lakes. The trail is steep between lakes, but mostly flat otherwise. Enjoy a special solitude in this area plus excellent views of the southeastern slopes of Lassen Peak.

STRENUOUS TRAILS

Brokeoff Mountain

Start: 1 mile before the southwest entrance

Length: 7 miles (11.25 km) round trip

Elevation Gain: 2,600 feet (792 meters)

Time: 4 to 5 hours

Steep trail and tricky early season stream crossings give way to panoramic views of the entire park, the Sacramento Valley, and Mount Shasta. Wildflowers are abundant in early summer.

Ridge Lakes

Start: Sulphur Works parking area, 1 mile north of the southwest entrance

Length: 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip

Elevation Gain: 1,045 feet (319 meters)

Time: 1-1.5 hours

This steep climb up a forested ridge rewards hikers with two small alpine lakes cradled in a basin between Brokeoff Mountain and Mount Diller. Stops along the way provide glimpses of Sulphur Works hydrothermal area and Sulphur Creek. Although challenging, this hike offers an opportunity to experience Lassen's alpine terrain in a short hike.

Explore Safely

Safety is *Your* Responsibility

- Bring water
- Wear sturdy boots
- Bring extra food
- Carry sunscreen
- Pack a map and compass
- Take breaks often
- Check the weather forecast
- Carry extra layers for warmth
- Finish your hike before dark
- Tell someone where you are going and when you will return



Reach the Peak



A hiker nears Grandview on the Lassen Peak trail

The *Reach the Peak* project is a multi-year effort to restore and rehabilitate the Lassen Peak trail. The project will work to maintain the character of the trail while taking steps to improve the visitor experience and accommodate its increasing popularity and use.

In 2010, the largest helicopter flight operation in park history strategically placed 2.4 million pounds of stone along the trail. With materials in place for the project's second year, Lassen Volcanic National Park trail crew and the California Conservation Corps began laboriously strengthening the backbone of the Lassen Peak trail. Despite hazardous work areas and exposure to severe weather, the *Reach the Peak* trail crew cut and placed nearly 5,000 cubic feet of stone on 75 rock retaining walls and resting areas. These carefully constructed retaining walls will reduce erosion on Lassen Peak's numerous switchbacks and provide a solid foundation for the higher, steeper sections of trail.



Park trail crew at work on the Lassen Peak trail

The trail will be closed at "Grandview" approximately 1.3 miles from the peak parking area. Closure of the route is possible at any time throughout the season. To provide limited access to the summit, the trail will be open to the summit on the following dates only:

JUNE / JULY

30 SAT	1 SUN	2 MON Full Moon	3 TUE	4 WED
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AUGUST

2 THU* Full Moon	3 FRI	4 SAT	5 SUN
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*The trail will open at 5 p.m. on August 2

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

31 FRI Full Moon	1 SAT	2 SUN	3 MON
---------------------	-------	-------	-------

SEPTEMBER

28 FRI	29 SAT Fee Free	30 SUN Full Moon
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Enjoy Lassen Peak from Afar



Many hikers have discovered another way to enjoy the splendor of Lassen Peak – from afar. **Brokeoff Mountain trail** (page 11) is a worthy rival to the Lassen Peak trail, passing through dense forests and lush meadows to spectacular panoramic views. The sweeping vistas include Mt. Shasta, the rim of ancient Brokeoff Volcano (Mt. Tehama) and breathtaking Lassen Peak.

Lassen Peak, Chaos Crags, Mount Harkness, and Prospect Peak are a few of the volcanoes that fill the panoramic view from atop Cinder Cone. The **Cinder Cone trail** (page 11) travels alongside Butte Lake and the Fantastic Lava Beds, giving way to colorful views of the Painted Dunes at the base of the cone.

The **Mount Harkness trail** offers an opportunity to climb a shield volcano with sweeping views of most of the park, a dramatic view of Lassen Peak, and views of Lake Almanor and Mount Shasta. A historic fire lookout is staffed during the summer and fall. Be sure to stop in and sign the logbook. Bring plenty of water – there is none available in the Juniper Lake area. This moderately strenuous trail is 3.8 miles (6 km) round trip, gains 1,246 feet (380m) and begins near the Juniper Lake campground.

Kids in Parks

Join the Club!

Junior Park Rangers

Kids between the ages of 7 and 12 are invited to participate in our Junior Park Ranger program. Choose from a variety of activities while learning more about Lassen Volcanic National Park. Kids who complete the Junior Ranger activity booklet can earn a patch and certificate.

Chipmunk Club

Our youngest explorers are welcome to participate in the Lassen Volcanic National Park Chipmunk Club. Kids can learn more about wildlife in the park and earn a Chipmunk Club sticker.

Green Junior Rangers

Junior Rangers, this is your chance to go green! The Green Junior Ranger program encourages kids to think and act beyond the park, “thinking globally and acting locally.” Kids will learn Green Ranger reduce, reuse, and recycle tips that they can practice every day as part of being green. Kids who complete the Green Junior Ranger activity card earn a patch and certificate.



Sleeping Under the Stars

Did you know your school or non-profit group could receive a grant to sleep under the stars at Lassen Volcanic? The Lassen Park Foundation encourages groups to apply for annual camping grants up to \$1,000 to help introduce camping and Lassen Volcanic

National Park to underserved youth. Selected groups are invited to discover their national park while camping at Craggs Campground and participating in hands-on, ranger-led activities.



Students from nearby Los Molinos get ready for a starry night

In order to provide the invaluable experience of visiting Lassen Volcanic to even more youth, the Lassen Park Foundation is launching a new campaign to convert Craggs Campground into a full-time youth camp facility complete with tent cabins, cooking shelters, and fire rings. The park and the foundation look forward to providing more opportunities for youth to discover their national park.

To learn more about how you can support or participate in the Craggs Youth Camp Project please contact the Lassen Park Foundation at (530) 378-2600 or go online to lassenparkfoundation.com.

Play Right, Eat Right

The *Let's Move Outside* campaign and FitKid program offer kids a fun way to start making healthy choices at an early age. The *Let's Move Outside* campaign was created to get kids and their families to take advantage of America's great outdoors. Kids who participate in healthy recreation in the park can show their commitment to fitness with a *Let's Move Outside* sticker.

The FitKid program is offered by Lassen Volcanic's concessions partner, California Guest Services. Kids can obtain a FitKid card at concession locations throughout the park to begin earning stickers for making FitKid choices such as eating a healthy snack or going for a hike.



A Youth Camp participant celebrates on the summit of Cinder Cone

Saving the Old Growth

Contributed by Jon Arnold, Park Forester



A Jeffrey pine struggles to compete for resources amid white fir

Visitors to the Manzanita Lake area have long admired the magnificent old growth Jeffrey pine forests that dominate the landscape and frame picturesque views of Lassen Peak. Easily recognizable by their cinnamon-red, plated bark, many of the large pines in this area are more than 300 years old! Their thick bark and high crowns have allowed the ancient pines to survive dozens of naturally occurring wildfires. Ironically, it is the absence of fire during the past century that now threatens the future of these forests.

Since the last fire in 1918, the number of young trees has increased many times more than what would have occurred naturally when frequent, low intensity fires shaped these forests. The increase in tree density consists almost exclusively of fire-sensitive white fir. One consequence is an increased risk of high intensity fires that threaten the area's old-growth pine forests, historic structures, and public safety. Another is that current tree densities exceed the limits of what is considered healthy, thereby increasing the risk of insect and disease mortality during the next drought. A third consequence is that the proliferation of white fir thickets is shading out understory shrubs and sun-loving pine seedlings, resulting in a denser but less diverse forest where firs are gradually replacing pines.

Beginning in September, the park will use mechanical thinning techniques to reduce the density of white fir in the Manzanita Lake area to mimic historic forest structures created by natural fire regimes. The results will be a reduction of fire hazard, improvement of tree vigor, and restoration of a diverse forest and wildlife habitats currently lacking in the area. Once the forest has been initially restored, prescribed fire will be used to maintain and further rehabilitate the forest ecosystem without additional use of mechanical equipment.

To learn more about this project, visit nps.gov/lavo/parkmgmt.

Wilderness Camping

Permits required

A free wilderness permit is required for overnight camping in Lassen Volcanic's backcountry wilderness. Permits are available in-person during operating hours at the Loomis Museum and the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center. Self-registration is available after hours at the above locations and at the Summit Lake, Juniper Lake, Butte Lake, and Warner Valley Ranger Stations. Permits are also available at least two weeks in advance through the park website.

Campsites

Camp at least 300' from other groups, 100' from streams and lakes, and at least 1/2 mile from any developed area. Camping is prohibited within 1/4 mile and/or within sight of ANY hydrothermal feature as well as the following: Cascade Springs, Kings Creek Falls, Cinder Cone, Painted Dunes, Lassen Peak, Cliff Lake, Little Willow Lake, Crag Lake, Mt. Harkness Summit, Crumbaugh Lake, Hat Creek Cabin, Echo Lake, trail from Summit Lake to Echo Lake, and the Upper and Lower Kings Creek Meadows. Maps showing restricted areas are available at permitting locations.

Campfires

Campfires are not allowed anywhere in the backcountry.

Food Storage

To protect wildlife, food and other scented items must be hung off the ground or stored in bear-resistant containers. Canisters are recommended; however, they are not available within the park, so please bring your own. Rope of 55 feet length or more is recommended for counter balance hanging. Please see a ranger for more information on hanging your scented items.



A backpacker enjoys a sparkling view of Butte Lake

Get Out of This World

Contributed by Ranger Melania Stoerber

What do Mars, microbes and mudpots have in common? For a group of students at Red Bluff High School the answer is Lassen Volcanic National Park. Since 2008, astrobiologists from the NASA Ames Research Center have teamed up with select students to investigate life in extreme environments. Lassen's otherworldly volcanic and hydrothermal features are an ideal laboratory for exploring the similarities between the landscapes of Lassen and Mars.

Standing on the craggy summit of Lassen Peak or marveling at Cinder Cone's expansive crater, it is easy to image how Lassen's volcanic landscape parallels the barren and rocky surface of the red planet. The five bubbling hydrothermal features found at Lassen may also be similar to a hydrothermal system once found on Mars. Surprisingly, unique forms of life, including algae and bacteria, flourish in temperature ranges and acid (pH) levels which few living creatures could withstand. Studying such extreme environments allows astrobiologists to ask if similar microbial life could have existed on Mars.

With assistance and training from NASA, Lassen astrobiology student interns are studying the park's landscape to answer that same question. NASA scientists

accompany students on field trips to Lassen to collect biological and geological samples. The team then returns to Red Bluff High School to examine the samples in a laboratory.

The study of extreme environments sparks a youthful fascination. As children, we marvel at astronauts who explore the mysterious depths of space, and as adults, we applaud human footsteps on distant planets. But why leave the exploration to the experts? Red Bluff High School students have discovered that you, too, can enjoy an out of this world experience right here at Lassen Volcanic National Park.



Lassen Astrobiology interns study water samples from Cold Boiling Lake

You Are the Scientist

A new breed of scientists has arrived. Citizen scientists (people like you) learn about the park, science, and conservation by participating in real scientific studies. This summer, expand your left brain and take advantage of one of Lassen's Citizen Scientist opportunities.

If Trees Could Speak

Have you ever noticed how plants bloom earlier during warm springs? Biological events such as the blooming of wildflowers and trees and the migration of birds are closely linked to ecological and climatic variables. **You can discover the dynamic seasonal events of Lodgepole and Ponderosa pines through Lassen's Phenology monitoring project.** Citizen scientists help park rangers observe and record phases of trees within the park, providing data on important indicators of the impact of climate change on our national resources. Speak with a park ranger to learn more about how you can participate.

Where Have All the Foxes Gone?

No one knows exactly why Sierra Nevada Red Fox populations have declined since the 1930s. Once occurring widely in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Ranges, including Lassen Volcanic National Park, their numbers have

decreased during the last 70 years. In the early 2000s, Lassen had at least five verified adult foxes that were collared as part of a study about their biology. Since 2009, there have been no verified sightings. **We need your help to verify if this threatened species still occurs in the park.**

If you think you see a red fox, look carefully to confirm. Look especially for the white fur on the tip of the tail, which distinguishes red foxes from gray foxes and coyotes. Try to get a photograph if possible without disturbing the animal. Report your sighting, including the location, date, and time to a park ranger or campground host. This information can help biologists learn where Sierra Nevada red foxes currently occur, which is an essential step in their conservation.



This photo of a female collared fox was taken in the park in 2003

Park Partners



Lassen Association is a non-profit partner that supports and assists Lassen Volcanic National Park in research, interpretation, and conservation programs. Lassen Association promotes the discovery of Lassen Volcanic National Park, enriches the experience of visitors, and supports the preservation and protection of the park for future generations.

Lassen Association bookstores, located within the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center and the Loomis Museum, offer books, maps, trail guides and videos about the natural and cultural history of Lassen. The bookstores also offer a large selection of educational gift merchandise to enhance your park experience and take home as memories. **All profits go directly to the park.**

For information on how to join our association, visit us online www.lassenassociation.org, or contact us at (530) 378-1495 or lassenassociation@yahoo.com.



Park publications are available at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, Loomis Museum or online at www.lassenassociation.org.



The Lassen Park Foundation provides support to preserve and interpret the special natural and cultural resources of Lassen Volcanic National Park and its environs for future generations.

With generous contributions from park visitors, the Lassen Park Foundation has helped support projects such as the Lassen Peak Trail restoration, the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center and park film, Lassen Crossroads, the summer Youth Camp, and the winter snowshoe education program.

Become a Friend of Lassen by contributing to the Lassen Park Foundation! Your donation is tax-deductible.

To learn more visit lassenparkfoundation.org, call (530) 898-9309, or email info@lassenparkfoundation.org.



Youth Camp participants explore the Devastated Area trail



A family enjoys the view from Lassen Peak summit

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Open late May to mid-October.

Manzanita Lake Camper Store:
Located 3 miles from the Northwest Entrance, next to the campground.

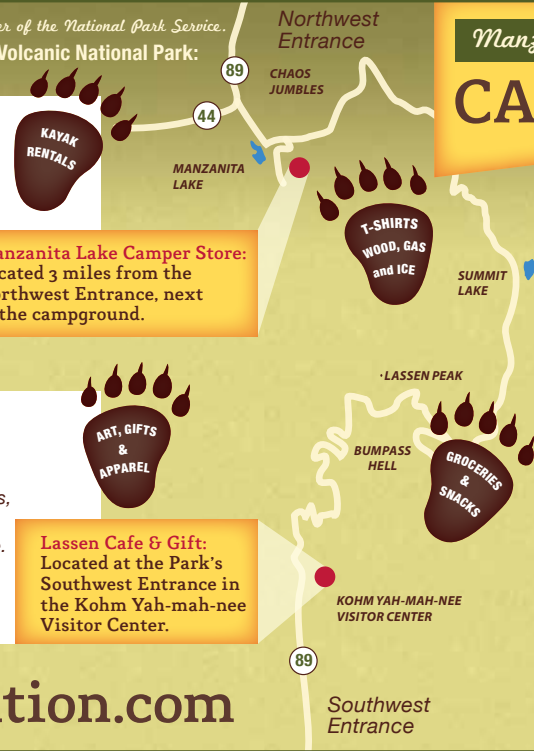
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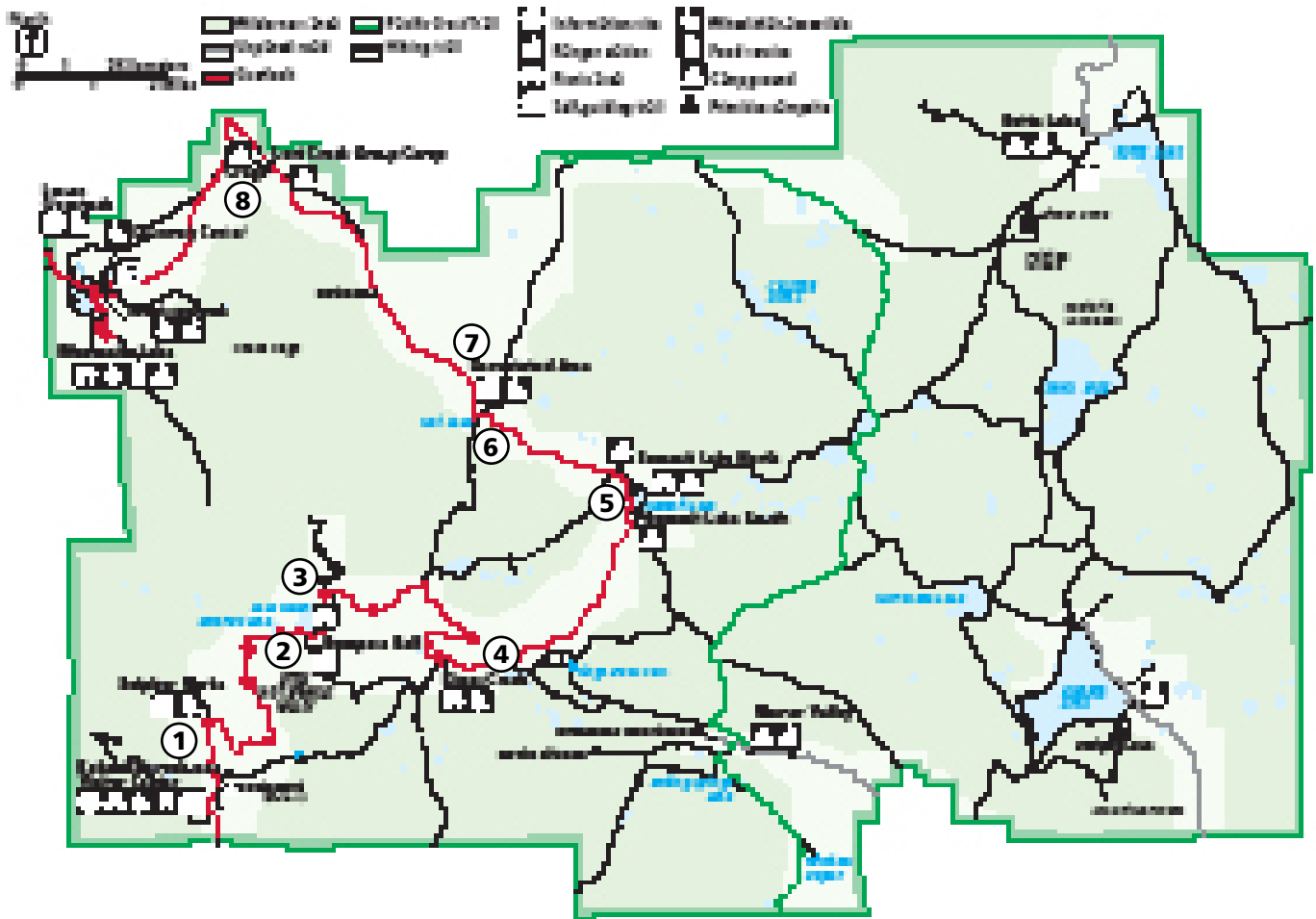


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Lassen Volcanic N.P. Highway Highlights



The 30-mile Lassen Volcanic National Park Highway offers an excellent introduction to the park. For a more in-depth auto-tour, pick up the *Road Guide to Lassen Volcanic National Park* at the Loomis Museum or Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center.

1. Sulphur Works

Have a safe hydrothermal experience at a roadside fumarole (steam vent) or surround yourself in the gurgling symphony of boiling mudpots at the park's most easily accessible hydrothermal area.

2. Bumpass Hell Overlook

Can you spot the former Brokeoff Volcano, also known as Mt. Tehama, in the volcanic remnants that surround you? The nearby boulder tells the story of this massive volcano's destruction.

3. Lassen Peak Parking Area and Viewpoint

Experience the majesty of Lassen Peak from the highest point on the park road at 8,512 feet.

4. Kings Creek Meadow Scenic Pull-out

Get your camera ready for this scenic spot where Kings Creek meanders through an expansive meadow at the foot of Lassen Peak.

5. North Summit Lake Picnic Area and Loop Trail

This perfect picnic spot invites you to take a dip in Summit Lake, stroll around the Summit Lake loop trail, or get ready for a trek out to Twin Lakes.

6. Hat Creek

Don't miss this area's fantastic fall colors. Use the crosswalk to access hidden Hat Creek meadow at the base of Lassen Peak. Can you tell what animal used to live here?

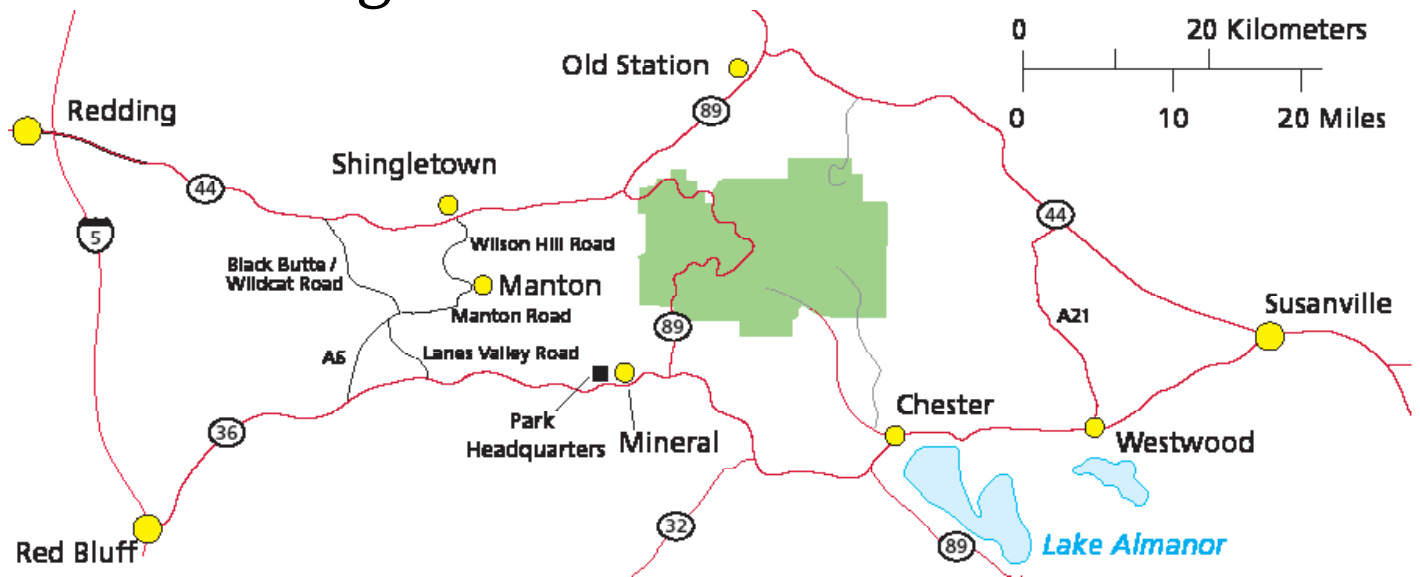
7. Devastated Area

Discover the devastation of Lassen Peak's last eruption on this short, accessible trail.

8. Chaos Crags and Jumbles Scenic Pull-out

Look for this pull-out on the north side of the road about a half-mile after you emerge from the forest. Can you imagine the rock slide racing up to 100 miles an hour down Chaos Crags to create Chaos Jumbles?

Surrounding Area Information



Travel Around the West Side of the Park

This route is the shortest route around the park. This windy road is not recommended for RVs and trailers. Average travel time is one hour and 45 minutes.

1. From the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, head south on Lassen National Park Highway / CA-89 for 4 miles.
2. Turn right (west) on CA-36. Continue for 23 miles.
3. Turn right (north) onto Lanes Valley Road. A large road sign on the north side of the highway marks the turnoff approximately 1 mile before the town of Paynes Creek. Continue for 7 miles.
4. Turn right onto Manton Road / Co Rd A6. Continue for 7 miles.
5. In Manton, make a left onto Wilson Hill Road. Continue for 1.5 miles.
6. Turn left to stay on Wilson Hill Road. Continue for 6 miles.
7. Turn right (east) onto CA-44. Continue for 17 miles.
8. Turn right (south) onto Lassen National Park Highway. Continue 1 mile to Manzanita Lake.

Travel Around the East Side of the Park

This route is slightly longer than the west route; however, it has fewer curves and is appropriate for RVs and trailers. Average travel time is two hours.

1. From the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, head south on Lassen National Park Highway / CA-89 for 4 miles.
2. Turn left (east) on CA-36. Continue 38 miles to Co Rd A21 / Mooney Road. Co Rd A21 is located in the town of Westwood. Continue for 18 miles.
3. Turn left (west) onto CA-44. Continue for 28 miles.
4. Turn left (west) onto CA-44 / CA-89. Continue for 13.5 miles.
5. Turn left (south) onto Lassen National Park Highway. Continue 1 mile to the Manzanita Lake Entrance.

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Lassen Volcanic National Park comprises the southern end of the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway. The Byway offers 500 miles of adventure, exploration, communion with nature, and an appreciation for the culture and history of the region. Enjoy stops in the surrounding communities where residents are eager to share the beauty and mystery of this land that is dotted with evidence of an eruptive past.

To learn more, speak with a ranger or visit volcaniclegacybyway.org





Bumpass Hell at sunset NPS Photo

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lassen Volcanic National Park
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Mineral, CA 96063-0100

