

Manzanar

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Manzanar National Historic Site

After Hours Guide

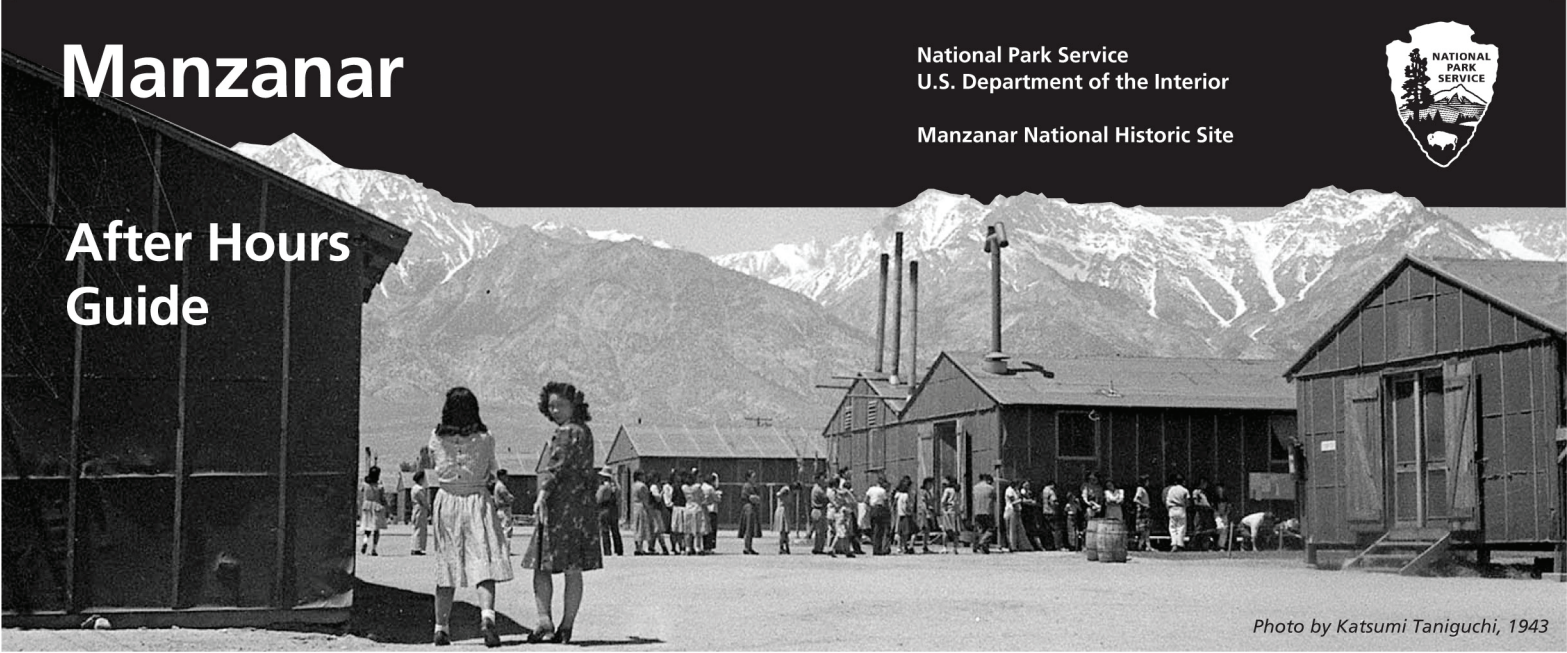


Photo by Katsumi Taniguchi, 1943

In the early months of 1942, following America's entry into World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the U.S. Army to remove nearly 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry from their homes and communities on the west coast; two-thirds were American citizens. Manzanar was one of ten camps to which they were sent. Enclosed by barbed wire, the mile-square living area contained barracks, mess halls, and other buildings, where up to 11,070 Japanese Americans lived between March 1942 and November 1945.

Manzanar also played an important role in the lives of American Indians who began utilizing the area almost 10,000 years ago. Soldiers, miners and ranchers began moving into the valley in the early 1860s. In 1910, Manzanar was established as an agricultural village. In the 1920s, the town's properties were purchased by the City of Los Angeles for their water rights.

Today, Manzanar National Historic Site preserves the many stories of Manzanar's past as a unit of the National Park Service.

Interpretive Center

Free Admission

Open daily

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
November through March

9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
April through October

Closed December 25

The Interpretive Center is located in the restored camp auditorium/gymnasium built in 1944. An award-winning 22-minute film, *Remembering Manzanar*, is narrated by former internees. It shows every 30 minutes. Exhibits feature historic photos, film footage, audio programs, a complete roster of Manzanar internees, a scale model of the camp, and a children's exhibit.

Park rangers offer walks and talks. Topics and times vary. For information on current programs,

or to reserve school or group tours, please call (760) 878-2194 or visit our website at www.nps.gov/manz. Programs are free.

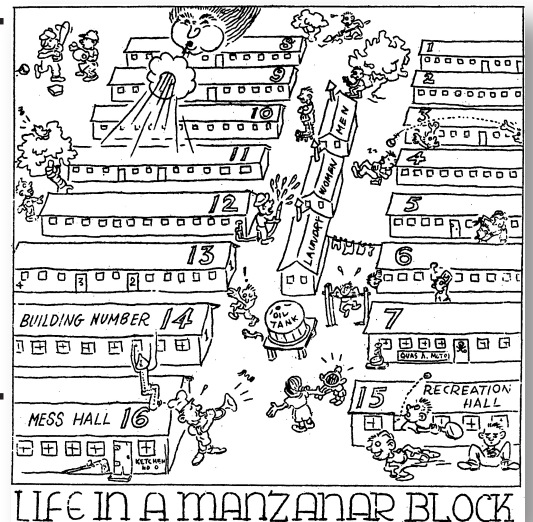
The Manzanar History Association bookstore (www.manzanarstore.com) features a large selection of books, gifts, and clothing items. Profits benefit Manzanar National Historic Site. All facilities are wheelchair accessible. Please, no pets, smoking, food, or drinks inside the Interpretive Center.

Block 14

The National Park Service is restoring elements of Block 14, located just northwest of the Interpretive Center, to provide visitors with an idea of block life in Manzanar. A restored World War II-era mess hall (moved to the site from the Bishop airport in 2002) features extensive exhibits on mess hall operations. Building 1 (representing 1942) and Building 8 (representing 1945) were reconstructed in 2010. Future plans include reconstructing the latrines, laundry room, and ironing room.

Self-guided Driving Tour

A 3.2-mile driving tour passes the auditorium, historic orchards, foundations, rock gardens, the camp cemetery, and sentry posts. Twenty-seven numbered posts along the route indicate sites of interest (see back of this page). Wayside exhibits are featured at key locations. **For your safety and to help preserve Manzanar, drive only on the designated one-way tour road. All other streets are closed to vehicle traffic.** You may park to the edge of the road and explore on foot. Keep pets leashed. **Do not disturb or collect anything.**



Cartoon published in the
Manzanar Free Press,
April 25, 1942

Eastern California Museum

Free Admission

Open daily

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed some holidays

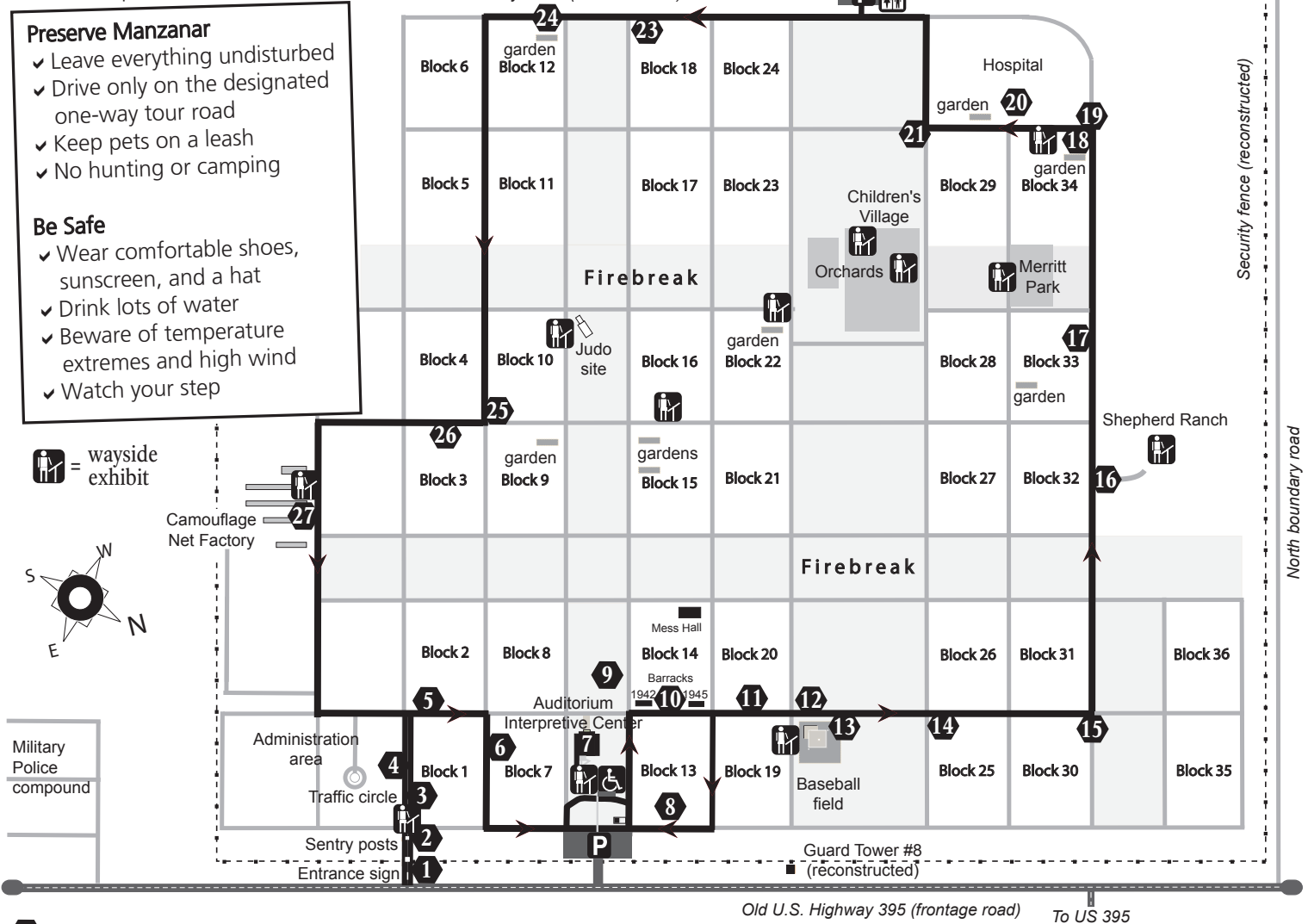
Located 2 blocks west of U.S. Highway 395 in Independence, the Eastern California Museum exhibits an extensive collection of Manzanar photos and artifacts, and highlights other aspects of Owens Valley history. For more information, call (760) 878-0258 or visit their website at www.inyocounty.us/ecmuseum.



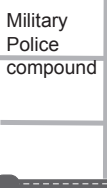
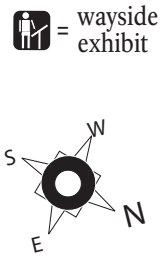
In addition to its Manzanar exhibit, Eastern California Museum features a gallery of Paiute and Shoshone basketry, outdoor exhibits of mining and ranching equipment, and more.

Driving Tour

3.2 mile loop



- Preserve Manzanar**
- ✓ Leave everything undisturbed
 - ✓ Drive only on the designated one-way tour road
 - ✓ Keep pets on a leash
 - ✓ No hunting or camping
- Be Safe**
- ✓ Wear comfortable shoes, sunscreen, and a hat
 - ✓ Drink lots of water
 - ✓ Beware of temperature extremes and high wind
 - ✓ Watch your step



- 1 Entrance** Stonemason Ryozo Kado built the military police and internal police sentry posts in 1942.
- 2 Police Station** Internees gathered here December 6, 1942, to protest the jailing of Harry Ueno, who was accused of beating a fellow internee. Two Japanese Americans were killed and 10 were wounded when military police fired on the crowd. The incident became known as the “Manzanar Riot.”
- 3 Newspaper** Japanese Americans published the Manzanar Free Press in Building 1 in the southeast corner of Block 1. The newspaper was self-supporting through subscriptions and advertising.
- 4 Administrative Section** Offices and housing for the War Relocation Authority (WRA) staff and their families were located here, along with a mess hall, post office, and town hall.
- 5 Bachelors’ Block** Block 2 residents included about 100 Japanese American men who arrived early to help set up the camp in March 1942.
- 6 Manzanar High School** The school, located here in Block 7, opened in October 1942 and graduated classes in 1943, 1944, and 1945.
- 7 Auditorium** Constructed by Japanese Americans in 1944, this building housed a gymnasium and a stage for plays, graduation ceremonies, and other social functions. Today it serves as the Interpretive Center.
- 8 Fire Department** The fire department, on the east side of Block 13, responded to occasional fires caused by short circuits, kitchen mishaps, and at least one incidence of arson.
- 9 South Firebreak** Tennis, volleyball, and basketball courts were located in this area, one of two east-west firebreaks.
- 10 Typical Block** Building locations in Block 14 are marked to illustrate the layout of a typical block. A World War II-era mess hall features exhibits, as do reconstructed barracks buildings in the block.
- 11 Photographer’s Quarters** Toyo Miyatake, a professional photographer from Los Angeles, lived here in Block 20. He smuggled a camera lens into the camp but eventually was allowed to document daily life, ultimately taking more than one thousand photos at Manzanar.
- 12 Homestead** The Kemp/Lenbek Farm was located near the locust trees in the early 1900s.
- 13 Baseball Fields** Two of the larger baseball fields were situated here in the North Firebreak between Blocks 19 and 25.
- 14 Catholic Church** Roman Catholics attended services at the St. Francis Xavier parish in the Block 25 recreation building. Protestants attended services in Block 5, 15, and 32.

- 15 Manzanar Town Site** The center of the town of Manzanar, established in 1910, was 350 yards to the east. The town had about 25 homes in the mid-1920s when Los Angeles was purchasing water rights in the area.
- 16 Shepherd Ranch** From 1864 to 1905, John Shepherd raised cattle, horses, mules, and grain here. George Chaffey purchased Shepherd’s holdings in 1905, established the town of Manzanar, and promoted “Fortunes in Apples.”
- 17 Orchards** Two blocks south of the tour road, the NPS is preserving more than 100 remaining fruit trees planted around 1910 by Chaffey’s Owens Valley Improvement Company.
- 18 Gardens** Block 34’s restored mess hall garden is located in the northwest corner of the block. Merritt Park, the most elaborate garden in the camp, is located southeast of Block 34.
- 19 Wilder Farm** Romeo Wilder and his family raised apples here from 1908 to 1925. Remains of the Wilder home are located about 50 feet west of the tour road.
- 20 Hospital** Stone and concrete steps, a pond, and floor slabs of the hospital laundry, heating room, and morgue are west of the tour route.
- 21 Children’s Village** One hundred and one children of Japanese ancestry were housed in an orphanage 125 yds. southeast of the tour road.
- 22 Cemetery** Fifteen of the 150 people who died at the relocation center were buried here; most of the others were cremated. Six burials remain today. Relatives removed the other nine after the war.
- 23 Buddhist Temple** One of three Buddhist temples was located here. The other two were in Blocks 13 and 27.
- 24 Garden** Residents of Block 12 built an elaborate garden next to their mess hall, as did residents of several other blocks.
- 25 Blocks 9 and 10** Internees from Terminal Island near San Pedro, Calif., lived here. They built a garden near the Block 9 mess hall.
- 26 Block 3** Two hundred and twenty-seven Japanese Americans from Bainbridge Island, near Seattle, arrived by train April 1, 1942 and lived in this block. In 1943, most transferred to the Minidoka, Idaho camp.
- 27 Net Factory** Japanese Americans produced camouflage netting here for the U.S. military in 1942.