



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pinnacles National Monument

Paicines, California 95043

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Superintendent Jim Sleznick

HIKING AND CAMPING INFORMATION

Pinnacles National Monument is administered by the National Park Service. An entrance fee of \$3.00 is charged. The Monument is separated into east and west districts, with visitor facilities located in both. Park Headquarters and the Bear Gulch Visitor Center are located on the east side of the Monument and are reached via State Highways 25 and 146 from Hollister or King City. The Chaparral Ranger Station and campground are located on the west side and are reached via State Highway 146 from Soledad. The road from Soledad to west Pinnacles is steep and narrow; motor homes or trailers are not recommended. There is no through road connecting the east and the west sides of the Monument; driving distance between the two sides is approximately 70 miles.

TRAVEL SEASON

The Monument is open all year. However, the best times to come are in the fall and spring. In July and August daytime temperatures may reach 100 degrees or more, even so the evenings are always comfortable. Most of the annual rainfall occurs during December, January and February. Travel to the park is extremely heavy on weekends during the fall and spring and on holidays. This causes considerable traffic congestion. Campsites can fill up rapidly on Friday nights, making it difficult to find vacant sites on Saturday.

WEST SIDE

CHAPARRAL CAMPGROUND (NATIONAL PARK SERVICE)

The Chaparral Campground, located on the west side of the Monument, has 23 walk-in sites, with a limit of six persons per site. There is a limit of three small tents or one large tent (more than 2 person) per site. Camping fees are \$5.00 per night. Picnic tables, a fire grill, water and toilets are provided. Sites are available on a first come-first served basis only for individuals.

Organized groups are permitted from June 1 - January 31. Requests for GROUP CAMPING reservations must be received by mail or telephone at least 1 week in advance of arrival date. Reservations cannot be made more than 6 months in advance. Individual or combined group size cannot exceed 36 persons. Reservations for group sites only can be made by calling (408) 389-4526.

Nearby the Los Coches campground in Soledad (408) 678-1416 and the U.S. Forest Service Arroyo Seco campground (408) 674-5726 offer camping for groups and individuals on a year-round basis.

EAST SIDE

PINNACLES CAMPGROUND INC. (PRIVATE)

A privately owned and operated campground is located off State Highway 146, immediately adjacent to the east side boundary. Picnic tables, fireplaces, flush toilets, showers and a pool are provided. Both family and group camping sites are available. Group reservations may be made by calling (408) 389-4462 or by writing

Pinnacles Campground, Inc., 2400 Highway 146, Paicines, CA. 95043. Gasoline, food and other supplies are available at the campground store.

BACKCOUNTRY USE

Backcountry camping is not allowed because of the relatively small size and fragile nature of the area. There are approximately 30 miles of hiking trails in the Monument for DAY USE ONLY. Cave touring, hiking and technical rock climbing are popular activities among backcountry users.

HIKING AND SAFETY

Enjoy your hiking by wearing sturdy comfortable walking shoes. Take water with you, and if you're going through the caves, flashlights are required. All park animals are wild and may inflict serious bites if annoyed. Please do not feed them. Enjoy them at a distance. Shortcutting between trails is not allowed; watch out for poison oak and rattlesnakes.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Campfire programs are presented on Saturday evenings from mid-February through May at the private Pinnacles Campground on the east side. Snake demonstrations are offered year-round on weekends from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Spring weekends may also offer Natural History walks. Special programs for groups and educational organizations may be requested through the Superintendent.

REGULATIONS

Pinnacles is a unique and fragile area. Regulations designed to protect the Park resources and the visitors are enforced by Park Rangers. It is the visitor's responsibility to know and to obey the regulations at the Monument. Important regulations are listed below. Further information can be obtained from Park Rangers.

Resource

Protection: Please stay on the trails. Cutting switchbacks causes erosion.

Fires: Open fires are permitted in established metal fire grates in picnic areas and campground. They must be attended and extinguished before you leave. Bring your own fuel. The gathering of any vegetation dead and down, or otherwise is prohibited.

Pets: Dogs, cats and other pets must be kept in a leash at all times. They are not allowed on trails, or away from roads and developed areas.

Hunting: Hunting or shooting is not permitted in the Monument. Nets, traps and unloaded weapons of any type, including bows and arrows, firearms, sling shots or air rifles may be possessed within a temporary lodging or mechanical mode of conveyance when such implements are rendered temporarily inoperable or are packed, cased or stored in a manner that will prevent their ready use.

Vehicles: All vehicles (including bicycles and mopeds) are restricted to paved road surfaces. None may be taken on trails or off paved surfaces. All motor vehicles must be licensed and operators must have a valid license. The maximum speed limit in the Park is 25 mph. Be careful of pedestrians and wildlife on the roads, especially at night.

Sanitation: Don't litter. Dispose of garbage in proper containers. Dispose of dishwater in the service sinks at restrooms. Do not wash pots, pans clothing or household articles at water stations.