

PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT

The last remnants of an ancient volcano, carved into the jagged pinnacles and spires by rain, wind, heat, and frost, rise against the sky here. These starkly angular rocks contrast **strikingly** with the smoothly rolling hills surrounding them. Pinnacles National Monument was established on January 16, 1908 to protect this unique and fragile area.

The dense brush cover that mantles the rugged slopes is chaparral which thrives in the long, hot, dry summers and cool, rainy winters normal to this part of California. It is the habitat of an interesting variety of plants and animals. Raccoon, black-tailed deer, rabbits, and Beechy ground squirrels are a common sight. Bobcat, gray fox, and coyote are also common to this area but are not seen as frequently. The rarely seen mountain lion also roams the Pinnacles area. Common birds include the Acorn woodpecker, Brown towhee, turkey vulture, California quail, and scrub jay. All plants, animals and natural features of the monument are protected, leave them for others to enjoy.

TO SEE THE PARK TAKE A HIKE! And take a camera! The pinnacles can best be enjoyed by foot. A variety of trails are available ranging from easy strolls to strenuous hikes. Allow plenty of time for your hike to enjoy the views, particularly on the steeper trails. Wear stout, comfortable shoes and loose fitting clothes. In the warmer months, be sure to carry plenty of water and wear a hat to protect you from the intense heat. Information on the hiking trails is available at all ranger stations in the monument. There are also several self-guided trails with booklets available at the ranger stations.

WE WANT TO SEE THE CAVES!! But where are they? There are two sets of "talus" caves. One set is located in the Bear Gulch about .5 miles up the Moses Spring Trail from the Visitor Center. The second is located between the Balconies Trail and the Old Pinnacles Trail about .7 miles from the Chaparral Ranger Station. Both caves can be bypassed by hikers. Those who wish to explore the caves must have flashlights and be aware of low ceilings, drop offs, and slippery rocks. These caves are extremely dangerous when flooded.

WHERE CAN WE CAMP? Camping in the monument is limited to the Chaparral Campground on the west side of the monument. Only day-use is permitted in the backcountry area, picnic areas, parking lots, and along side the roads. A privately-owned campground lies adjacent to the east side of the monument. It has tent sites, RV sites, group sites, electrical hookups, showers, convenience store, and a swimming pool. FIRES are permitted only in established metal grates in the picnic areas. Wood gathering is prohibited, so bring charcoal or wood if you plan to have a picnic fire.

CAN MY DOG COME TOO? Pets are permitted if they are kept under direct physical control (on leash) at all times. They are NOT permitted on the trails, in the backcountry area, or in the buildings.

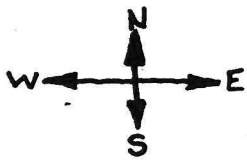
WHY SHOULD I STAY ON TRAILS? Taking shortcuts causes severe erosion and expensive trail damage. Slips, falls, and contact with poison oak are common hazards of shortcut hiking.

ARE THE WILD ANIMALS SAFE? All monument animals are wild and potentially dangerous. (Yes! Even those cute squirrels.) For your sake and the animals', please enjoy them at a distance. Many of these animals carry diseases and frequently bite the hands that feed them. Our food is "junk food" of the worst kind for these animals.

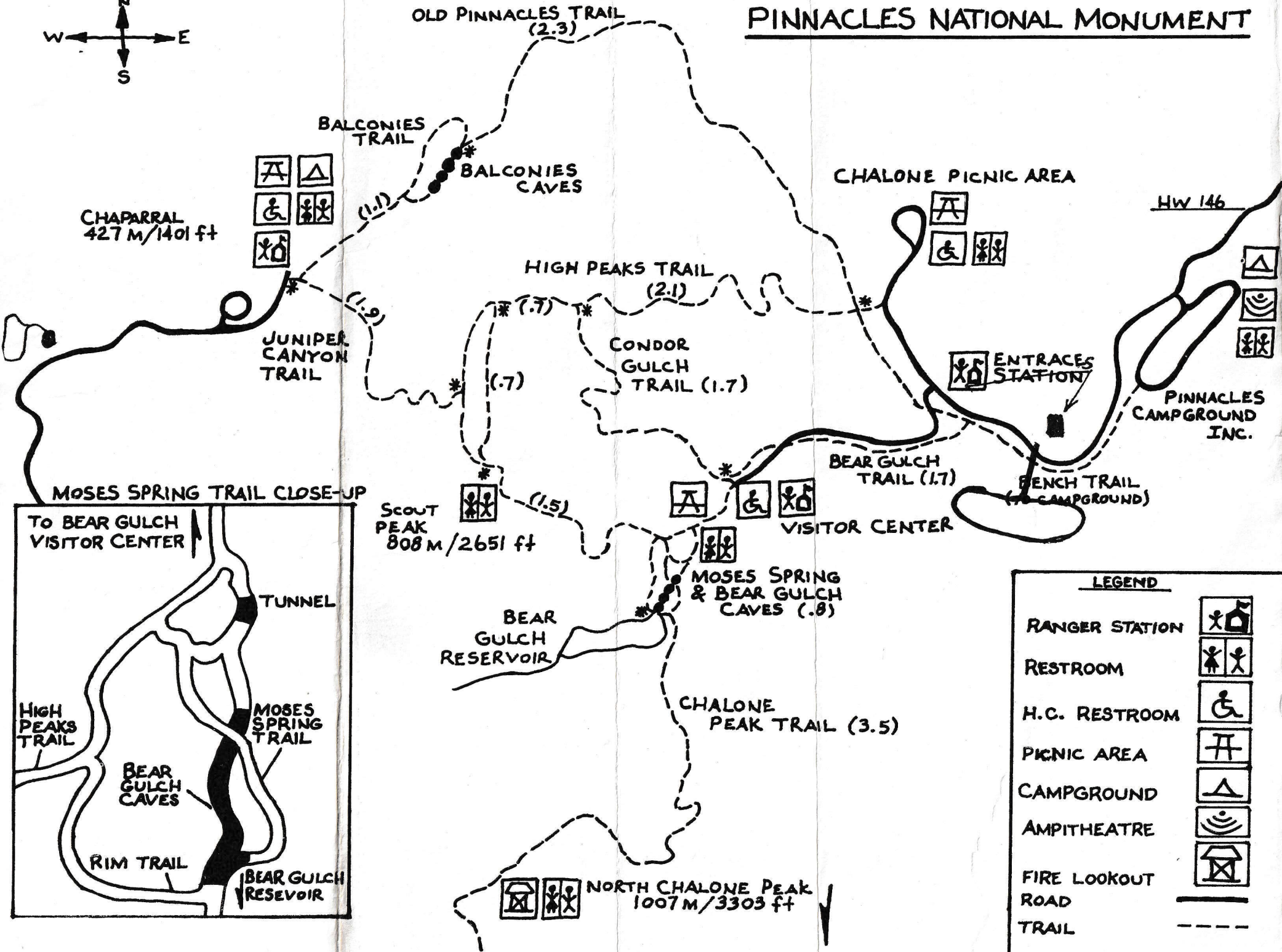
WHERE CAN I RIDE MY BICYCLE? All vehicles, including bicycles and mopeds, are restricted to paved road surfaces. No vehicle may be taken off roadways or on the trails.

CAN I CLIMB THE ROCKS? Each year many "rock scramblers" get stranded or fall off the rocks. Only experienced and properly equipped technical rock climbers should attempt to climb the rocks here.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS, PLEASE, CONTACT A RANGER.



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CHAPARRAL
427 M/1401 ft

OLD PINNACLES TRAIL
(2.3)

BALCONIES TRAIL
(1.1)

BALCONIES CAVES

CHALONE PICNIC AREA

HW 146

HIGH PEAKS TRAIL
(2.1)

JUNIPER CANYON TRAIL
(1.9)

CONDOR GULCH TRAIL
(1.7)

ENTRACES STATION

PINNACLES CAMPGROUND INC.

MOSES SPRING TRAIL CLOSE-UP

BEAR GULCH TRAIL
(1.7)

FENCH TRAIL
(1.7) CAMPGROUND

SCOUT PEAK
808 M/2651 ft

VISITOR CENTER

TO BEAR GULCH VISITOR CENTER

MOSES SPRING & BEAR GULCH CAVES
(.8)

LEGEND

RANGER STATION



RESTROOM



H.C. RESTROOM



PICNIC AREA



CAMPGROUND



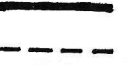
AMPITHEATRE



FIRE LOOKOUT ROAD



TRAIL



BEAR GULCH RESERVOIR

CHALONE PEAK TRAIL
(3.5)

NORTH CHALONE PEAK
1007 M/3303 ft

