

Crater Lake

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Crater Lake National Park



Summer 2002

The 2002 summer schedule of activities will not be established until late May. In the meantime, we hope this flyer will provide the general information you have requested to plan your park visit.

Keep in mind that the amount of snow we receive during the winter and spring plays a large role in determining when we can open park facilities for the summer season. Above average snowfall could delay the opening of roads and campgrounds. If you plan on visiting before mid-June, call prior to your arrival for current road information.

The summer edition of the park newspaper, *Reflections*, will be printed by mid-May. It contains a wealth of information about the park and its activities. You will receive a copy of *Reflections* and the official park map when you enter the park.

During the summer, two visitor information centers are open in the park, both located on the south side of Crater Lake. A park ranger will be on duty to answer your questions and help you plan your visit. Backcountry permits and educational sales items are also available at both visitor centers. The Steel Information Center, located at Park Headquarters, is open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The park video, *The Crater Lake Story*, can be viewed here. Our Rim Village Visitor Center is located along the south rim of the lake.

The park entrance fee for a family vehicle is \$10. Different fees apply for buses; call for information.

If you wish further park information, call Crater Lake National Park at (541) 594-3100. Our website address is: www.nps.gov/crla

Roads and Trails

During the winter, the 33-mile Rim Drive around Crater Lake is closed. We wish we could predict the exact date in advance for the summer opening and fall closing of the Rim Drive, but it varies from year to year with changing weather conditions. We do open portions of the drive as it is cleared of snow. We can generally predict that the North Entrance to Crater Lake National Park and the West Rim Drive will be open by mid-June. The entire Rim Drive is typically clear of snow by mid-July. If you are planning an early summer visit, keep in mind that you may need to enter the park through the South Entrance (open throughout the year), where the road leads to a spectacular view of Crater Lake at Rim Village. Be prepared at any time of the year for potentially icy or wet pavement.

Park trails are often under snow until mid-July. Hikers and backpackers visiting before this time should be prepared for moderate to heavy amounts of snow cover on all park trails. Skis or snowshoes may be required in June, depending on the amount of snowfall. Backcountry permits for overnight trips are issued year-round, free of charge, from both park visitor centers during regular hours of operation. Permits are not issued via the mail.

Crater Lake National Park has more than 90 miles of maintained hiking trails to explore, including a 30-mile section of the Pacific Crest Trail. For trail conditions, weather forecasts, and hiking suggestions, talk with a park ranger at one of our two visitor centers. Pets, bicycles, and firearms are prohibited on all park trails.

Weather

Summer weather may be unpredictable at Crater Lake. Throughout the summer, there are days when the Lake is completely covered in clouds and fog. We realize this can make for a disappointing visit, but hope that you can appreciate the more subtle beauty presented to you on these days.

May and June can vary from warm, sunny days in the 60's to wet, rainy days with poor lake visibility.

July, August, and September are your "best bets" for dry, warmer weather. Average daytime high temperature during these three months is in the 70's, but can range from the 40's through low 80's. Temperatures cool off rapidly in the evening, with a typical nighttime low around 40 degrees, while some nights dip below freezing. October usually presents cool but sunny fall days and brings the start of winter snowfall by the end of the month.

Food, Drink, Gasoline, and Other Amenities

The park's concessioner operates a large complex on the South Rim of Crater Lake that includes a cafeteria, gift shop, and full service restaurant. In addition, the Crater Lake Lodge has a formal dining room (non-overnight guests are welcome). Gasoline, convenience items, showers, and laundry are all available during the summer at the Mazama

Village Store, located adjacent to Mazama Campground on the south side of the park. The store is open from mid-May to mid-October. No gas or lodging is available in the park during the winter.

A U.S. Post Office operates Monday through Saturday in the Steel Information Center.

Lodging and Camping

Camping: There are two campgrounds inside Crater Lake National Park:

Mazama Campground (200 sites) is operated by the park's concessioner. It opens as soon as the snow melts, usually by mid-June. It is not on a reservation system, but generally there are plenty of sites available.

Lost Creek Campground (16 sites, tent camping only) is operated by the National Park Service. It opens in July after the Rim Drive is cleared of snow.

Outside Crater Lake National Park there are several U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State Park, and private campgrounds available within 20 to 40 miles. Inquire at the park visitor centers for specific locations.

Lodging: Two options for overnight lodging are available within the park:

Crater Lake Lodge, with 71-rooms, will open for the summer season May 20, 2002 and close in mid-October. Reservations are highly recommended well in advance.

Mazama Village Motor Inn, with 40 units, is located 7 miles from the lake on the south side of the park. This facility operates from June to October.

To make reservations for either of these accommodations, call (541) 830-8700.

Outside Crater Lake National Park are numerous motels within forty miles in any direction.

Ranger-led Programs and Educational Activities

Ranger-led programs are available from late June through September. Evening Programs are held nightly in the Mazama Campground through Labor Day. "Discovering Crater Lake" talks are presented daily at the Sinnott Memorial Overlook in Rim Village. Junior Ranger Programs and a variety of guided hikes are offered as well. Snowshoe walks are offered in the spring before trails are snow-free. Check at either of our park visitor centers upon arrival for exact program times and locations.

Boat tours on Crater Lake generally begin by the first week in July and end mid-September. 2002 ticket prices have not been determined; 2001 ticket prices for the 1½-hour ranger-narrated tours were \$19.25 per adult and \$11.50 per child under 12. *Safety note:* Boat tours on Crater Lake are accessible only by hiking the Cleetwood Trail, located on the north side of the lake. The trail is steep, descending over 700 feet in one mile. It should not be attempted by those with heart, lung, or leg problems.

Regional Map

Spring Driving Distances:

Medford	80 miles
Klamath Falls	60 miles
Bend	105 miles
Roseburg	106 miles
Eugene	140 miles
Portland	250 miles
San Francisco	450 miles
Seattle	425 miles

The north entrance of Crater Lake National Park is typically not open until about mid-June.

