

# Lava Beds

National Monument

National Park Service

## Lava Beds Trails

### The Short Trails

The most popular trails at Lava Beds are short, but lead to some of the most significant sites in the monument.

#### Bunchgrass Trail

Starts across from Site B-7 in Campground. Follows an old roadbed around northeast side of Crescent Butte. Approximately 1 mile long.

#### Schonchin Butte Trail

Climbs .75 mile to the fire lookout and a panoramic view. Steep, but worth the effort. You can be a guest of the lookout on duty.

#### Big Painted Cave & Symbol Bridge Trail

Winds .75 mile past interesting lava tube collapses and other features. Many fine pictographs at the bridge and cave. Take Skull Cave Road to parking area and trailhead.

#### Black Crater and Thomas-wright Battlefield Trail

Volcanism and history. Less than a 1/4 mile to the crater; a little over another mile to the battlefield. Fine wildflower displays along the way in season.

#### Captain Jacks Stronghold Trail

Two self-guiding interpretive trails through the heart of the Modoc War. Inner loop 1/2 mile; outer loop 1 1/2 miles.

### The Long Trails

Three trails cross or reach out into the back country. All rules for wilderness hiking and camping apply.

#### Three Sisters Trail

Entered at the campground, this trail loops out into the back country and returns to the Skull Cave Road. 8.75 miles.

#### Lyons Trail

A former monument road, this trail crosses the wilderness area on a north-south axis between Skull Cave parking area and Hospital Rock on the North Boundary Road. 9.5 miles.

#### Whitney Butte Trail

From Merrill Cave parking area to the west boundary of the monument, this trail crosses the wilderness in an east-west direction, curving around Whitney Butte. 3.5 miles.

# Special Concerns in the Wilderness

## **Wilderness Hiking and Camping**

On October 13, 1972, 28,460 acres of back country were designated wilderness.

## **Weather**

Prepare for sudden, and often violent, weather changes. Snow and freezing temperatures have been seen here in every month of the year. Normal summer temperatures can drop 50 degrees or more in a short time.

## **Water**

There are no springs or streams here. You must carry plenty of water.

## **Off-Trail Hiking**

Prepare for hard going. Hiking off the trail is often quite difficult and slow.

## **Fires**

Extreme care must be taken with fire safety. The vegetation here is highly flammable, especially during long, hot, dry spells. Open fires are not allowed at any time. Only gas stoves are allowed, unless fire indexes decree otherwise.

## **Camping**

Camping in or within 50 yards of caves or in the vicinity of chimneys is also not permitted. Camping within one mile of roads, trails, and parking areas is also prohibited.

No more than 12 campers should be in any group.

## **Start at the Visitor Center**

Check for current weather information and details of regulations at the visitor center before departing.

## **DON'T**

Pets, hunting, and motorized vehicle are not allowed in the wilderness area.

The wildlife you may encounter in the wilderness areas have not yet become accustomed to people like those around the visitor center, campground, and parking lots. Please help keep it that way!

## **DO**

Learn the rules and live by them.

Enjoy your visit with nature, study the different plants, watch the wildlife, follow the graceful flight of soaring hawks, vultures, and perhaps even an eagle. Enjoy...but be careful--for yourself and for the environment.

**Carry first aid supplies and always let someone know the general area you expect to use, the time you expect to return, and get friendly with the rangers in the visitor center before you set out. For your own safety, we need to know you and your itinerary.**