Discover Day Hiking!

There are lots of places to explore, both in and out of the Monument. Here are a few suggestions to help you make the most of your visit:

Devils Postpile
Take a short walk (0.4 miles) to the base of this unique geologic formation. A short loop trail at the Postpile leads you to the tops of these vertical columns for a birds-eye view of the area.

Soda Springs
This is a good sidetrip on the way to the Postpile or a short walk (0.3 miles) from the Ranger Station. These highly carbonated mineral springs are evidence of the volcanic activity in the area.

Minaret Falls
A moderate 1.5 mile hike leads to the bottom of this large cascade located along the Pacific Crest Trail. You may have to cross a number of streams along the way, so be prepared.

Rainbow Falls
Walk one mile from the Rainbow Falls trailhead (Bus Stop #9) or 2.5 miles from the Ranger Station (Bus Stop #6) to visit the 101-foot waterfall. By starting at the Ranger Station and ending at the Rainbow Falls trailhead, a convenient 3.8 mile loop can be made. Bring plenty of drinking water and be sure to read about the Rainbow Fire at the first viewpoint.

John Muir Trail
This trail offers great views of the Postpile from the west side of the river and is easily accessible from the Ranger Station. This may be a good option if you are looking for a more challenging day hike.

Rainbow Falls

Starkweather Trail
This steep but scenic hike follows part of the old Starkweather road from the top of Minaret Vista down to Starkweather Lake (Bus Stop #2). Stunning views of the Minarets make this 2.5 mile (one-way) hike worthwhile.

Agnew Meadows Wildflower Walk
Best enjoyed at the peak of the wildflower season (mid-June through the end of July), this short 1/2 mile loop trail (Bus Stop #1) winds its way along easy terrain through a variety of impressive flowers.

Important Safety Tips:

- Avoid climbing on wet, slippery rocks in areas near water. Swimming is not recommended due to fast currents and cold temperatures.
- Heat exhaustion is a real threat in the height of the summer. Carry and drink plenty of water while hiking. Bring along snacks as well.
- Sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Some parts of the Monument offer little shade, including the trail to Rainbow Falls.
- Know your limits and avoid over-exertion. Acclimate yourself gradually to strenuous hikes and to the higher elevations of the mountains.
- Get a map of the area and trails you plan to hike, and avoid hiking alone. Tell someone your planned route and return time.
- Stay on established trails and observe designated overlooks.
- Check the Ranger Station and bulletin boards for current maps and park information

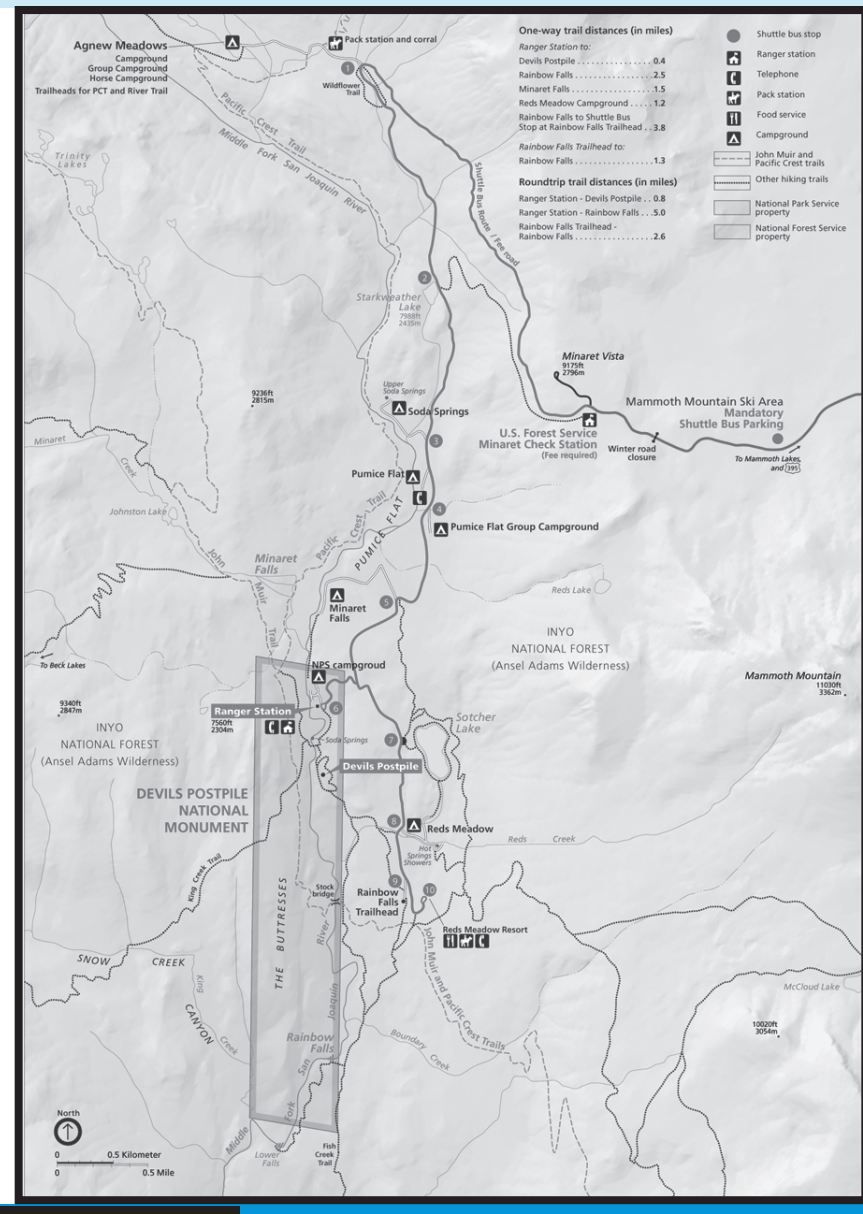
Shuttle Information

The mandatory shuttle bus runs every summer season from mid-June through the end of September. The cost is $7.00/adults and $4.00/child. Golden Passports and National Park Passes are not accepted. Buses run with a frequency of every 20 or 30 minutes from 7:00am to 7:30pm daily.

For More Information...

Visit our website www.nps.gov/depo or write us at:

Devils Postpile National Monument
P.O. Box 3999
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(760) 934-2289



Regulations

The resources here belong to everyone. Please help protect and preserve the Monument by following these regulations during your stay.

Proper food storage is required for both day users and those staying overnight. Bear-resistant food boxes are available in all campsites. An additional locker is located next to the Ranger Station for day use.

Removing or disturbing plants, animals, rocks, or other natural features is against the law. Only dead and downed wood may be collected for campfires. No chainsaws may be used in the Monument.

Bicycles are not allowed on any trails in the Monument. They are permitted only on established roads.

Do not litter or leave fishing hooks and lines along the river. These can harm wildlife.

Pets are allowed on trails but must be on a leash within the Monument at all times. Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets.

Fishing is regulated by state law and requires a valid California sport fishing license for people 16 years of age and older. The daily bag limit is five and the possession limit is ten.

Hunting is prohibited within the Monument. Firearms may be transported through the park only if they are unloaded and cased.

Do not feed the wildlife, including ducks and squirrels. Wild animals can become dependent upon unnatural food sources and lose their ability to forage.

Climbing on the columns and the talus rock pile at the base of the Postpile is prohibited.

Interpretive Activities

Naturalist programs are offered mid-June to September. Check bulletin boards for updated schedules and topics.

Naturalist Walks Join us for an hour long walk to the Postpile. Learn about the Postpile's fascinating geology, the evidence glaciers left behind in the area, and much more. Meet at the Ranger Station at 11:00am, daily.

Evening Campfire Programs Join a Ranger for a slide show by the campfire on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:00pm, late June through Labor Day weekend. Meet at the amphitheater near the Ranger Station.

Junior Ranger Programs Earn an official badge and certificate by completing the activities in our Junior Ranger booklet available at the Ranger Station.

Ranger Station Hours 9:00am - 5:00pm daily, from the end of June through mid-September.

Did you know?

Many of the songbird species who nest in the Monument fly to Central and South America for our winter.