

Enjoying the Park Safely

To preserve park resources and protect yourself, please observe the following regulations and safety reminders:

- Hiking or climbing inside the caldera is prohibited. Conditions within the caldera are very dangerous. [The Cleetwood Trail](#) is the only safe and legal access to the lake's shore.
- Pets are prohibited in the backcountry and on all trails. Pets on a leash or otherwise physically restrained are permitted within 50 feet of roads and established parking areas, campgrounds, and picnic areas.
- Feeding wild animals, including birds, is prohibited. Feeding animals is dangerous for you, bad for them, and harmful for the ecosystem.
- Observe posted speed limits along park roads, and watch for wildlife, visitors, and bicyclists.
- Bicycles are not allowed on park trails. Bicycling is permitted on paved roads and the Grayback Drive. Wear a helmet at all times. [Read our bicycling brochure](#) for more information.
- Smoking is prohibited on all trails.
- Shortcutting on trails is prohibited to protect vegetation and other visitors and to prevent erosion.
- [Free backcountry permits are required for spending a night in the backcountry.](#) Permits are available at park visitor centers.
- Be prepared! Equip yourself with water, food, warm clothing, rain gear, sunscreen, and anything else appropriate to the trail you take. Know the weather forecast, and avoid exposed places during thunderstorms.
- All park resources (rocks, plants, animals and artifacts) should be left undisturbed.

**USE CAUTION NEAR
THE EDGE -
FOOTING CAN BE
DANGEROUS**

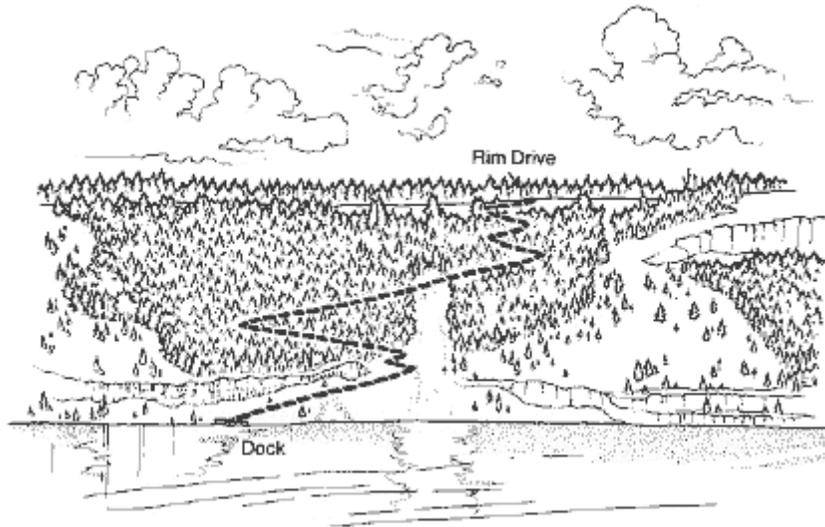


**Please be cautious near
the rim of the caldera. The
Cleetwood Cove Trail is
the only safe and legal
access to the lake.
Climbing inside the
caldera is strictly
prohibited.**

Inside

- [A Century of Stewardship](#)
- [Planning Your Visit](#)
- [Ranger-Led Programs](#)
- [Finding Your Way Around Rim Village](#)
- [Please Help Us Conserve Water and Electricity](#)
- [Jr. Ranger Activities](#)
- [Centennial Plans](#)
- [Getting to the Bottom of Crater Lake](#)
- [The Crater Lake Natural History Association](#)
- [For Sale from the Crater Lake Natural History Association](#)
- [Welcome, Northwest Youth Corp](#)
- [The Friends of Crater Lake National Park](#)
- [Hiking the Cleetwood Cove Trail](#)
- [Enjoying the Park Safely](#)
- [Crater Lake Hiking Guide](#)
- [Leave No Trace](#)
- [Exploring the Backcountry](#)
- [Visitor Services](#)
- [Getting to the Park](#)

Hiking the Cleetwood Cove Trail



The Cleetwood Cove Trail, located on the north side of Crater Lake, is the only safe and legal access to the shore of Crater Lake. It is one mile (1.6 km) in length, one-way, and drops 700 feet (210 meters) as you descend from the East Rim Drive trailhead to the lakeshore. On your return trip, this is comparable to climbing 65 flights of stairs! The Cleetwood Cove hiking trail is recommended only for those in good physical condition and should not be attempted by visitors with heart, breathing, or walking problems. It is not accessible for visitors with mobility impairments. Hikers should wear closed-toe shoes and bring plenty of water, sunscreen, and mosquito repellent. Toilets are available at both the trailhead and the boat dock area. Due to the park's heavy snow conditions, the trail typically does not open until sometime in June, and closes in early October.

Crater Lake Hiking Guide

Destination/Trail Name	Distance	Difficulty	Trail Highlights
Sun Notch Viewpoint	0.5 mile (0.8 km) round-trip	Short stroll Allow 30 minutes	Overlook of Crater Lake and Phantom Ship
Castle Crest Wildflower Garden	0.5 mile (0.8 km) loop trail	Short stroll Allow 30 minutes	Beautiful brook; display of wildflowers in July
Godfrey Glen	1 mile (1.6 km) loop trail	Gentle level hike Allow 45 minutes	Overlook of Annie Creek Canyon; old growth forest
Discovery Point	1.3 miles (2.1 km) one way	Moderate ups and downs Allow 1 hour	Views of the lake between Rim Village and Discovery Point
Watchman Peak	1.4 miles (2.3 km) round-trip	Moderate climb; 500 feet (150 m) elevation gain. Allow 1 hour	Historic fire tower; overlook of Wizard Island
Annie Creek Canyon	1.7 mil (2.7 km) loop trail	Moderate climb out of	Deep stream-cut canyon;

		canyon. Allow 1 1/2 hours	wildflowers and wildlife
Cleetwood Cove	2.2 miles (3.5 km) round-trip	Strenuous climb; 700 feet (215 m) elevation gain. Allow 2 hours	Guided boat tours; fishing; see article above
Garfield Peak	3.4 miles (5.5 km) round-trip	Strenuous; 1,000 feet (300 m) elevation gain. Allow 2 to 3 hours	Panoramic views; overlook of Phantom Ship
Mt. Scott	5 miles (8 km) round-trip	Strenuous; 1,500 feet (460 m) elevation gain. Allow 3 hours	Highest peak in park; outstanding views; historic fire tower
Crater Peak	5 miles (8 km) round-trip	Moderate climb; 615 feet (190 m) elevation gain. Allow 3 hours	Forest, panoramic views (but no view of the lake), wildlife