



## Park Trails

Crater Lake National Park contains more than 90 miles of hiking trails. Many may be hiked in a single day. The steep terrain and elevation of Crater Lake mean that the time, length, and difficulty of trails are not directly related.

Difficulty listings are broken into four categories: easy, moderate, difficult and strenuous. Trails listed as strenuous should be taken only by people in good physical condition. Most of these hikes are over a mile high in elevation, so go slow and be prepared.

### Things to Know

Crater Lake National Park is a special place. To help preserve park resources and to protect yourself, please observe the following rules:  
Hiking or climbing inside the caldera is prohibited. Cliffs and rockslides make the caldera extremely dangerous. The Cleetwood Trail is the only safe and legal access to the lake.  
Dogs and other pets are only allowed in developed areas; not on park trails or in the backcountry.  
Bicycles are only allowed on the paved roads and the unpaved Grayback Road.

Stay on trails to protect vegetation and fragile hillsides. Shortcutting trails, particularly on switchbacks, can damage slopes and make them more susceptible to erosion.  
Be prepared! Equip yourself with water, food, warm clothing, and anything else appropriate. Do not drink water from park streams or from the lake without properly treating it.  
Leave all rocks, plants and artifacts undisturbed for the enjoyment of future hikers. Gathering of downed wood for campfires is allowed only below 6,900 feet.

### Short Hikes (15 to 45 minutes)

#### Sun Notch Viewpoint

Time: 20 minutes  
Length: 0.25 miles one way  
Elevation: 7,000 to 7,115 feet  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Trailhead: 4 miles east of Park Headquarters on the East Rim Drive  
Features: View of Crater Lake and Phantom Ship. Use caution near the cliff edges.

#### Godfrey Glen

Time: 30 minutes  
Length: 1 mile loop  
Elevation: 6,000 to 6,050 feet  
Difficulty: Easy  
Trailhead: 2.4 miles south of Park Headquarters on Munson Valley Road.  
Features: Old growth forests, and views of Annie Creek Canyon. Fully accessible.

#### Castle Crest Wildflower Trail

Time: 30 to 45 minutes  
Length: 0.4 mile loop from East Rim Drive, 1 mile loop from Park Headquarters  
Elevation: 6,400 to 6,500 feet  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Trailhead: 0.5 miles east of Park Headquarters on East Rim Drive, or across the road from Park Headquarters  
Features: Creek and meadow wildflowers in summer months.

#### Lady of the Woods Trail

Time: 30 minutes  
Length: 0.3 mile loop  
Elevation: 6,400 to 6,500 feet  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Trailhead: Behind Steel Information Center  
Features: View historic buildings, landscape and sculpture. Trailside brochure available by Munson Creek bridge.

#### Pinnacles Trail

Time: 30 minutes  
Length: 1 mile out and back  
Elevation: 5,500 to 5,400 feet  
Difficulty: Easy  
Trailhead: End of Pinnacles Spur Road, 7 miles south of Phantom Ship Overlook  
Features: Views of volcanic spires in canyon walls. Use caution near cliffs.

## Medium Hikes (1 to 2 hours)

### Watchman Peak

Time: 1 hour  
Length: 0.8 mile one way  
Elevation: 7,400 to 8,056 feet  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Trailhead: Watchman Overlook, 3.7 miles north of Rim Village on West Rim Drive  
Features: Panoramic view from a historic fire lookout. May be closed until July due to snow.

### Plaikni Falls

Time: 1 hour  
Length: 1.1 miles each way  
Elevation: 6,420 to 6,520 feet  
Difficulty: Easy  
Trailhead: Pinnacles Rd, 1 mile south of Phantom Ship Overlook.  
Features: 20 foot waterfall. Klamath name meaning "from the high country".

### Discovery Point

Time: 1 hour  
Length: 1.1 miles one way

Elevation: 7,050 to 7,150 feet  
Difficulty: Easy  
Trailhead: Rim Village, follow the sidewalk west out of Rim Village to start of dirt trail.  
Features: Views of Crater Lake.

### Cleetwood Cove (*only lake shore access*)

Time: 1.5 hours  
Length: 1.1 miles one way  
Elevation: 6,850 to 6,176 feet  
Difficulty: Strenuous, 11% grade  
Trailhead: 4.5 miles east of junction of East Rim Road and North Entrance Road  
Features: Lake shore and boat dock.

### Annie Creek Canyon

Time: 1.5 hours  
Length: 1.7 mile loop  
Elevation: 5,800 to 6,000 feet  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Trailhead: Mazama Campground Amphitheater  
Features: Deep, stream-cut canyon and creek-side wildflowers.

## Longer Hikes (2 hours or more)

### Garfield Peak

Time: 2 to 3 hours  
Length: 1.7 miles one way  
Elevation: 7,050 to 8,060 feet  
Difficulty: Strenuous  
Trailhead: Follow sidewalk on lakeside of Crater Lake Lodge going east to start of dirt trail  
Features: Panoramic views. May be closed until mid-July due to snow.

### Boundary Springs

Time: 3 hours  
Length: 2.5 miles one way  
Elevation: 5,240 to 5,255 feet (400' +/-)  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Trailhead: Highway 230, 5 miles west of Hwy 138 junction.  
Features: Forest hike to Rogue River headwaters.

### Mt. Scott

Time: 3 hours  
Length: 2.5 miles one way  
Elevation: 7,450 to 8,929 feet  
Difficulty: Strenuous  
Trailhead: 14 miles east of Park Headquarters on East Rim Drive  
Features: Highest point in the park with views of a historic fire lookout and Crater Lake.

### Crater Peak

Time: 3.5 hours  
Length: 3.2 miles one way  
Elevation: 6,500 to 7,265 feet  
Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous  
Trailhead: East Rim Drive, 3 miles east of Park Headquarters in Vidae Falls Picnic Area.  
Features: Forest and views of Klamath Lake (no Crater Lake views).

## Backpacking Options (Permit required for overnight stays)

### Dutton Creek

Length: 2.4 miles one way  
Elevation: 7,057 to 6,080 feet  
Difficulty: Difficult  
Trailhead: south of West Rim Drive intersection by Rim Village  
Features: Through forest and meadows to backcountry campsites on Pacific Crest Trail.

### Lightning Springs

Length: 4 miles one way  
Elevation: 7,150 to 5840 feet  
Difficulty: Difficult  
Trailhead: West Rim Drive, 2.3 miles west of Rim Village  
Features: Forest and meadow views with access to backcountry campsites and Pacific Crest Trail.

### Union Peak

Length: 5.5 miles one way  
Elevation: 6109 to 7709 feet  
Difficulty: Strenuous  
Trailhead: PCT trailhead on Hwy 62  
Features: Forest walk with steep climb to the top. Great views. May be closed by snow until July.

### Pacific Crest Trail

Length: 34.2 miles one way  
Difficulty: Difficult  
Trailheads: Hwy 138 just north of park boundary, 6 miles south of Hwy 138 on North Entrance Rd, and Hwy 62 a ½ mile west of Mazama Village  
Features: Forest trail with no Crater Lake views. Alternate trail available along west rim of Crater Lake (no stock allowed).