

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve



National Park Service
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior



Great Rift Gazette

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CENTENNIAL
NATIONALPARKS.ORG



Celebrate 100 Years with the NPS!

A VISIT TO A NATIONAL PARK can provide an opportunity to gain perspective on the past and consider the future. This is especially true in 2016 as we celebrate 100 years since the establishment of the National Park Service.

In 1872 Congress established the world's first national park, Yellowstone National Park. In 1906 President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act into law which authorized the President to designate areas that contained objects of historic or scientific interest as national monuments.

One hundred years ago Congress approved an act to establish a new government agency to manage national parks, the National Park Service.

The fundamental purpose of these areas as identified in this legislation was "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." When



the National Park Service was established on August 25, 1916, Yellowstone and 36 other units, including 21 national monuments, had already been set aside and now became part of the National Park System.

Only eight years after the establishment of the National Park Service, President Calvin Coolidge utilized the Antiquities Act to set aside a little known area in Idaho which became known as Craters of the Moon National Monument.

President Calvin Coolidge's proclamation of May 2, 1924, the purpose of Craters of the Moon is to preserve an area of unusual scientific and education value and interest, "...and has a weird and scenic landscape peculiar to itself."

In 2000 the Antiquities Act was again utilized to preserve almost all of the 50 mile-long Great Rift volcanic zone and the Craters of the Moon, King's Bowl, and Wapi lava fields. In 2002 a portion of the expanded Monument was re-designated by Congress as Craters of the Moon National Preserve. Craters of the Moon National Monument and Craters of the Moon National Preserve are two of the 410 units that now make up the National Park System.

To celebrate 100 years of resource stewardship and to connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates, national parks across the country are offering a variety of special events this summer.

In addition, park staff will help "Find Your Park" by reaching out to local community events. You may see rangers at local parades.

While you're here, reflect upon the history of national parks. Consider how we can help ensure that these special places will continue to be cherished for the next hundred years.

FIND YOUR PARK
FINDYOURPARK.COM

Campground Closing on July 5th

The last time that our campground underwent a major renovation was way back when the National Park Service was nearing its 50th anniversary. The "Mission 66" program provided funding to develop the facilities and basic layout of the Lava Flow Campground.

In 2016, as we begin the celebration of the National Park Service Centennial we look forward to a new and improved camping experience for visitors.



View of the Monument's campground, as it has been since the 1950's

Welcome

Welcome to Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. We are delighted that you are here. Whether you're visiting for a few hours, a few days, or perhaps even longer, we are committed to ensuring you have the best possible visit.

On August 25, 2016, the National Park Service, the agency responsible for the management of more than 400 parks and other protected areas across the country, including Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, will celebrate its 100th birthday. From the vast fields of lava south of the Craters of the Moon visitor center, to the Statue of Liberty, to the wilds of national parks like Olympic and Yellowstone, the National Park Service has carefully managed the Nation's most valuable natural and cultural treasures for a century.

Details regarding special events here at Craters of the Moon in honor of this momentous occasion are described on page 4 of this newspaper.

As you prepare to enter the Monument and Preserve, stop by the visitor center before starting your exploration. There you'll find key information and insight on how to make the most of your visit. We offer a variety of hikes, talks, and interpretive programs to meet interest and abilities of all levels.

You can help us protect this special place by staying on roads and trails, putting litter in its place, and taking only photos. If you have a suggestion on how we can further improve the visitor experience, please consider filling out a comment form at the visitor center.

Have a safe and enjoyable visit.

Wade M. Vagias,
NPS Superintendent

Inside

Visitor Information	2
Junior Ranger	3
Walks & Talks	4

continued on page 2

Cave Permits Required

In the past decade, over 6.7 million North American bats have died due to White-nose Syndrome. *To visit caves at Craters of the Moon you must agree not to wear or bring anything that has been in another cave since 2005.* Get screened and pick up one of these **FREE** permits at the visitor center, entrance station, or at any ranger program.

Campground...

continued from page 1

The campground was designed in the 1950's. The sites were small, road access tight and only one site was made fully accessible. Back then, most of the campers were driving cars or pickups and setting up tents. These days, many campers are driving larger rigs that require more room to navigate. While the needs of our campers have changed over the years, the campground layout and design has remained essentially the same. The campground is currently maintained in good condition for 1950's style camping; however, it needs to update to modern standards.

This project will reconstruct and widen the campground loop roads, develop several new accessible campsites and modify 10 sites to accommodate trailers and motor homes. Work will also include paving vehicle parking areas to help mitigate the current damage incurred as vehicles drive off the pavement and crush the natural volcanic cinder surface. Plans also include leveling the campsites, trash and recycling collection areas and construction of paved accessible walkways throughout most of the campground area. Although there will be many improvements, special efforts have been taken to retain the unique character of the campground by protecting the lava flow features that cradle the individual campsites.

The campground will be closed beginning July 5th and will remain closed during 2016. We encourage visitors to make other plans for overnight accommodations. Inquire at the visitor center for a free handout listing other regional camping options. Please pardon our dust during construction. We hope that you will return to enjoy an even better camping experience.

Where's the Volcano?

WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD lava, our first instinct may be to scan the horizon in search of a volcano. Where is that 10,000 ft. volcanic peak soaring into the sky? You might be searching for another Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Rainer, or Mt. Lassen of the West. These are strato or composite volcanoes, characterized by towering snow-capped peaks and violent eruptions. But, the forces behind the volcanic landscape at Craters of the Moon are quite different from those that created the Cascade Range.

Craters of the Moon is, in fact, peppered with volcanoes. Cinder cones, spatter cones, and a large shield volcano span the Monument, beginning just north of the visitor center and continuing south, almost to American Falls. A lengthy fissure is the responsible volcano here. The Great Rift – as it is officially referred to – an over 50 mile long zone of fractures in the crust of the earth. This rift resulted from a tug-of-war that began millions of years ago within the earth's crust. One side forcibly pulls to the left, the other side pulls to the right, until the crust is stretched to its breaking point, and cracks apart.

As the crust of the earth pulls apart, pressure is relieved, and deep cracks provide a pathway for magma to ascend. In the past 15,000 years, eight different eruptive phases have occurred within the Monument.

Where Can We See the Rift?

Several Spatter Cones (Stop 5) erupted in a straight line along the Great Rift; an aerial view is available from the top of Inferno Cone (Stop 4). Broken Top Loop trail (Stop 6) offers a view of a deep trough, the linear fissure Broken Top exploded from. The cinder cone continues to experience tension and stretching, and a craggy crack has splintered up the south side of the cone.

Is the Area Still Active?

The rift continues to pull apart. A cyclic pattern of eruptions have occurred along the Great Rift approximately every 2,000 years. The most recent eruption? About 2,000 years ago. Geologists predict another eruption will occur within the next 1,000 years. Explore the beauty and serenity of Craters of the Moon before our sleeping rift volcano reawakens and alters this landscape once more.

General Information

Accessibility

Facilities - visitor center, restrooms, amphitheater, and campsite #42
Exhibits - audio and video enhancing assistive devices are available for presentations at the visitor center.
Trails - campground sidewalk, Snow Cone, and Devils Orchard.



Emergencies

If the visitor center is closed, contact any employee (park housing is located next to the visitor center) or call 911. A pay phone is available 24 hours at the visitor center, or use a cellphone where service is available.



Pets

Leashed pets are welcome on park roads and in the campground. For the protection of park wildlife and your pet, they may not be taken on park trails, into the backcountry, or left unattended. Please utilize the pet area near the visitor center and clean up after your pet.



Recycling

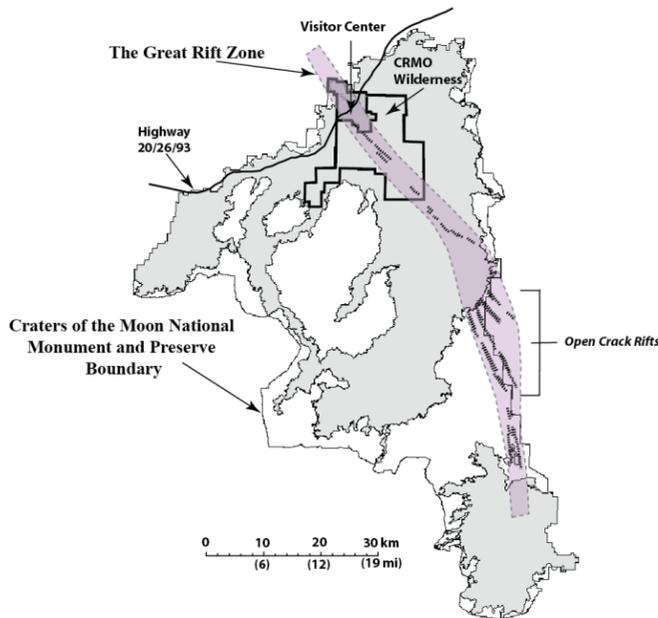
The Monument's recycling center is located in the campground across from the entrance station. It accepts:

- Glass
- Plastics #1-5
- Mixed paper (office paper, newspaper, etc.)
- Cardboard
- Aluminum & tin cans



Resource Protection

All natural features are protected by law and are to be left unchanged for others to enjoy. Let photographs and memories be your souvenirs. Hunting is permitted only within the National Preserve and the BLM Monument in accordance with state law.



The Great Rift, highlighted in purple, that created the gray lava fields.

Monument Partners

Who's responsible for protecting Craters of the Moon? Everyone!

Here are some who deserve special thanks:

	<p>Craters of the Moon Natural History Association (NHA) Since 1959 the NHA has supported "the scientific, educational, historical, and interpretive activities of the National Park Service" through sales of books and other publications. This newspaper is a tangible example of this support. Become a member. Inquire about the benefits of membership at the bookstore desk. www.cratersofthemoonnha.org</p>
	<p>Volunteers Last year 100 volunteers donated over 3800 hours of service to Craters of the Moon. Do you have a talent that you would like to share? Both short and long term opportunities are available. Check out our website or inquire at the visitor center desk for current opportunities. www.nps.gov/crmo/supportyourpark/index.htm</p>
	<p>Geological Society of America (GSA) GSA's Geocorps program offers paid geoscience internships on public lands across America. Our understanding of the geologic history and features at Craters of the Moon has benefitted greatly from the work of these bright and motivated young scientists for over a decade. http://rock.geosociety.org/g_corps/index.htm</p>
	<p>Student Conservation Association (SCA) The Student Conservation Association is America's conservation corps. Members protect and restore national parks, marine sanctuaries, cultural landmarks and community green spaces in all 50 states. SCA's mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land. Craters of the Moon, and many other national parks, have benefitted greatly from the hard work of SCA interns. www.thesca.org</p>

Junior Ranger Programs

Children of all ages can become a Junior Ranger and earn a patch by completing the Lunar Ranger booklet. Kids can also earn a Craters of the Moon badge by attending the Junior Ranger Walk or the Junior Ranger Talk:



Junior Ranger Walk: Join a Ranger for a new guided walk program specifically for families. The walk starts daily at 2 pm. Explore the “weird and scenic landscape” while earning your Junior Ranger badge! The family-focused activity occurs on the wheelchair accessible Devils Orchard trail. Bring water and a sense of adventure!

Junior Ranger Talk: From June 5- July 4 (until the campground closes) in the campground amphitheater at 8 pm. Learn about different jobs rangers perform to help protect our National Parks! Enjoy fun activities for kids ages 5-12. At the end of the activities, participants will earn their own Junior Ranger badge. Parents are welcome.

Every Kid in a Park

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FREE access to federal lands and waters for 4th graders and their guests.

The Every Kid in a Park initiative is aimed at providing an opportunity for each 4th grade student across the country to experience federal lands and waters for 12 months beginning when the students enters 4th grade. Every Kid in a Park invites

fourth graders and their families to explore not only national parks but other federal lands, such as wildlife refuges and national forests – more than 2,000 places in all – for free.

To obtain their pass, students in 4th grade, or children between the ages of 9 to 11, can visit www.everykidinapark.gov. The Every Kid in Park website provides educators and community leaders a place to find educational activities, explore field trip options, and print passes for their classrooms or groups.

Craters of the Moon was selected to receive funding from the National Park Foundation's 2015-2016



Every Kid in a Park Transportation Grants program. This program works jointly with the Bureau of Land Management and will bring 800 4th grade students to the park to participate in a curriculum-based education program designed to promote better understanding of federal lands and create the next generation of park stewards.



Hiking Etiquette

Please consider that these lava flows and features are thousands of years old and easily damaged by off-trail travel. In addition, park regulations prohibit off trail travel around the North Crater Flow and Spatter Cones areas (see maps on trailhead signs to identify specific closure areas).



You are also quite fragile and easily damaged by sharp and abrasive lava rock! Taking a fall will almost certainly result in cuts and scrapes.

5 Tips for Safety

Water, water, water. There is no water along the Loop Drive. Fill your water bottle at the visitor center's filling station or at the campground. Carry plenty of water when you hike.

Sturdy shoes (no sandals) and long pants are highly recommended. Hats provide shade from the sun and some protection from low cave ceilings, as well.

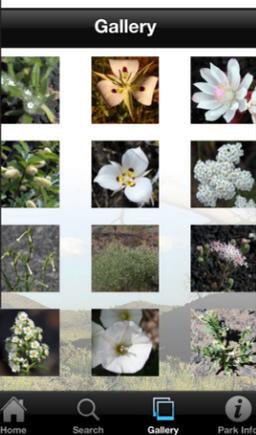
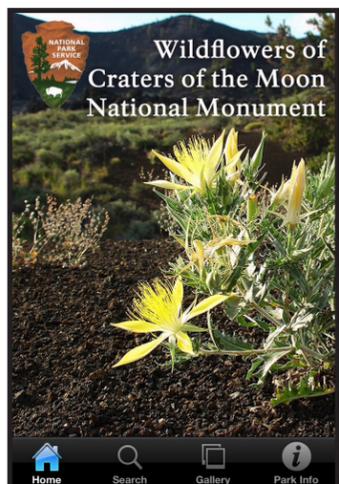
Carry a map, GPS or compass, and a cellphone while hiking. Although cell service is limited, you may be able to pick up a signal from the top of one of the cinder cones in the event of an emergency.

Avoid hiking alone. Help can be a long time in coming. If you do hike alone, let someone know your route and time of return.

Flashlights are a must for exploring caves. Take at least one dependable light source with you. Remember your cave permit too!

Thank you for protecting your Monument and yourself!

There's an App for That!



Wildflowers of Craters of the Moon app

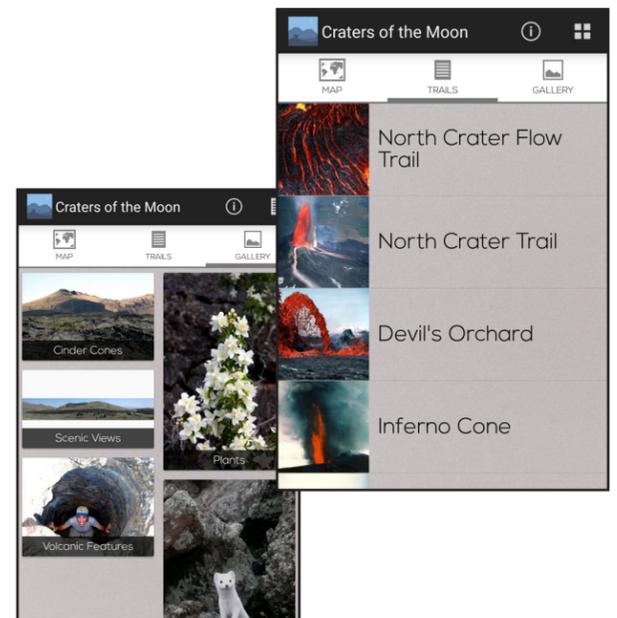
LIKE HAVING A RANGER IN YOUR POCKET, our free mobile applications (app) provide guidance to the wildflowers and geology of Craters of the Moon.

The app, *Wildflowers of Craters of the Moon* provides the ability to identify 100 of the most common plants at Craters of the Moon.

Craters Rocks! is a new app that provides guided tours of the main trails along the Loop Road. The app includes trail maps, photos, and descriptions of important geologic features that are visible throughout this volcanic wonderland.

Download your free copy for both Apple and Android devices by visiting our webpage at:

<http://www.nps.gov/crmo/photosmultimedia/index.htm>

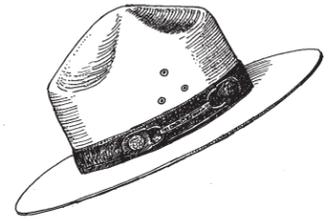


Craters Rocks! app



Walks & Talks

June 5 - Sept. 5, 2016



Make the most of your visit to this volcanic wonderland! Enjoy a film or join a Park Ranger for a talk, guided walk, or evening program. A variety of programs are offered each day.

Activity	Time	Location	Description
Film - A Trip to the Moon	Daily at 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (25 min.) on the hour	Visitor Center, #1 on map	Begin at the visitor center (open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily) to plan your visit and view exhibits and films to orient you to the area. Pressed for time? View our 7 minute introductory film in the museum.
Film - Among the Craters of the Moon	Daily at 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (17 min.) on the half-hour	Visitor Center, #1 on map	
Broken Top Hike	Mon. - Thurs. at 10 a.m. (2 hours, 1.8 miles)	Broken Top Loop Trailhead/Tree Molds parking lot, #6 on map	Hike over, under, and around a volcano on this fascinating hike on the Broken Top Loop. Bring sturdy shoes, water, flashlight, and cave permit.
Cave Walk	Daily at 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.; also at 10 a.m. Fri.-Sun. (1.5 hours, 1 mile)	Caves Area Trailhead, #7 on map	Follow the trail through a sea of ropey lava into the strange underground world of a lava tube. Bring sturdy shoes, flashlight, and cave permit.
Patio Talk	Daily at 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. (15 min.)	Visitor Center, #1 on map	Enjoy a short talk about the natural or cultural history of Craters of the Moon. Check the visitor center for daily topics.
Junior Ranger Walk	Daily at 2 pm, 45 min.	Devils Orchard, #3 on map	Explore the "weird and scenic landscape" while earning your Junior Ranger badge! This family-focused activity occurs on the wheelchair accessible Devils Orchard trail. Bring water and a sense of adventure!
Junior Ranger Talk	Nightly at 8 p.m. (30 min.) only until July 4th	Campground Amphitheater	Learn how Rangers protect our National Parks by engaging in activities for kids ages 5-12. Parents are welcome too!
Evening Program	Nightly at 9:30 p.m. June 4 - July 4, then at 6:15 p.m. July 5 - Labor Day (45 min.)	Campground Amphitheater when scheduled at 9 pm Visitor Center theater when scheduled at 6:15 p.m.	Rangers present different programs each night on the natural and cultural history of the park.

Centennial Events

Join us for these and other special events throughout the summer. For more details or to reserve a spot, inquire at the visitor center or visit www/nps.gov/crmo/planyourvisit/events

Star Parties June 3-4 Sept. 2-3

Gaze into the cosmos under the park's pristine dark skies.



Nature Inspired Workshops June 10-11 & 18 Oct. 15

Nature photography workshops, wildflower walks, and Earth science week hikes are just some of the special programs offered through the Natural History Association. **Fee required.**



Centennial Celebration! August 27

Join us in the birthday festivities! Clark Heglar will portray Robert "Two Gun" Limbert. You can enjoy cake and have fun in the festivities.



Craters of the Moon Developed Area Map



Hours of Operation

Craters of the Moon is open every day of the year, 24 hours a day. The visitor center is open daily (except winter holidays) during the following hours:

Memorial Day through Labor Day:
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Rest of the year:
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve



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