

# Craters of the Moon

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

Craters of the Moon National  
Monument and Preserve



## Winter Activities



The winter landscape at Craters of the Moon National Monument is one of black and white. Deep snow obscures the once-fiery lava. Dark, jagged rocks protrude here and there through the backdrop of snow. It is a landscape of dramatic contrasts and rugged beauty.



### Cross-Country Skiing

Although the 7-mile Loop Drive through the monument closes to motorized travel in winter, it is groomed for cross-country skiing, both classic and skating styles.

The groomed track is 5 to 7 miles in length with mostly level terrain or gentle hills. There is one steep hill on the southwest flank of Inferno Cone. Novices should ski the loop clockwise to avoid coming down this hill. Although skiing time varies with ability and snow conditions, most people can ski the entire loop in 2 to 4 hours. There is no charge for skiing at Craters of the Moon.

### Telemarking

The open slopes of the cinder cones scattered along the Loop Drive provide perfect telemarking terrain. Feel free to leave the groomed track and venture onto our volcanic slopes to carve some turns!

The cinder cones north of highway 20/26/93 also offer excellent telemarking. Park at the visitor center or in one of the highway turnouts.

### Snowshoeing

The snow-covered landscape of Craters of the Moon offers many opportunities for visitors on snowshoes to enjoy the monument during the winter months. Follow the orange snow poles to explore a 1.5-mile Snowshoe Loop Trail through the monument or venture off of the winter trails and climb a cinder cone.

Free guided snowshoe walks are offered in January and February for the public and school groups. Snowshoes are provided and no previous experience is required.

### Camping

Winter tent camping is permitted in the campground as well as designated parking lots. There are pit toilets; however, there is no running outdoor water. You can fill water containers at the visitor center during business hours. Wood fires are not permitted, so bring a stove for cooking. Backcountry camping is also allowed with a free permit obtained from the visitor center.

If in an RV, the RV parking lot on the east side of the visitor center is the only accommodation for campers and fifth-wheels.

There is no fee for winter camping.

### Hazards

Weather conditions may change rapidly, and winter visitors should be prepared for the worst. The average high temperature for January is 29°F and the average low is 10°F. Even on the best of days, high winds are common. To reduce the risk of hypothermia or frostbite, always carry extra clothing, water, and a snack. Know your own abilities, and do not venture so far that you become exhausted.

Use caution if you leave the groomed trail. The surface of the lava beneath the snow is very uneven and the snow may conceal cracks and other dangerous obstacles.

### Regulations

Dogs tear up the groomed track and detract from the skiing experience for others and may also frighten wildlife. For these reasons, dogs are not permitted beyond the visitor center parking lot.

Snowmobiles are not permitted in the monument for similar reasons.

### Contact Us

For schedules and other information, visit our website at: [www.nps.gov/crmo](http://www.nps.gov/crmo). To sign up for winter activities, contact us at: [crmo\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:crmo_information@nps.gov) or (208) 527-1335.

# Winter Trail Map

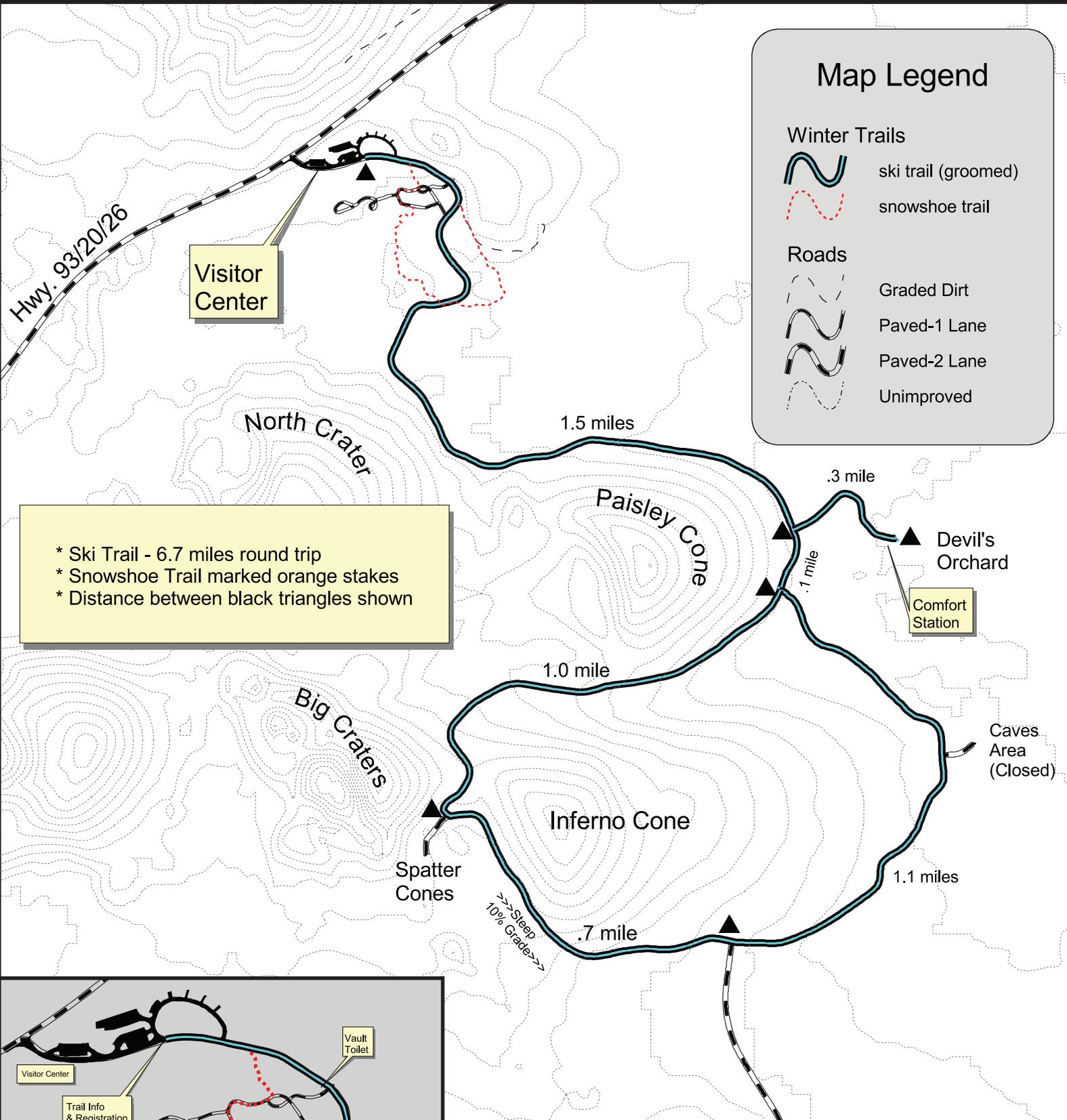
### Map Legend

**Winter Trails**

- ski trail (groomed)
- snowshoe trail

**Roads**

- Graded Dirt
- Paved-1 Lane
- Paved-2 Lane
- Unimproved



\* Ski Trail - 6.7 miles round trip  
 \* Snowshoe Trail marked orange stakes  
 \* Distance between black triangles shown

### Visitor Center Area

Idaho Location

Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Miles

1 : 17,698 1 inch = 0.28 miles