



Welcome to the Nation's First National Monument!

DEVILS TOWER is an iconic geologic wonder rising out of the mixed prairies and ponderosa pine forest; it is a undeniable landmark that draws you in. As you explore the monument today, the Tower you see will be remarkable, everlasting in its powerful appearance. Yet depending on the time of day and the weather, the formation can look dramatically different. Often, it is yellow-green against a clear blue sky, but in shadow the Tower is black and seems to stand a little taller. When fog rolls in, it is shrouded in mist, only peeking out occasionally to say hello. If you visit in the winter, the Tower will be covered in a dusting of snow. During sunset, the sun's rays will turn its face orange, reflecting the colors of the sky. In this way, the formation is remarkably dynamic, changing its appearance as the day and seasons progress – if you come back, you may see a different Tower than the one you see today. Yet Devils Tower is also timeless, changing on a scale imperceptible to human eyes.

Since people first arrived at Devils Tower thousands of years ago, the monolith has remained essentially unchanged. The Tower you are seeing today is the same formation that Theodore Roosevelt protected as the nation's first national monument in 1906, the same landmark that explorers and settlers used as they moved west across the country, and the same stone monolith where Native Americans have gathered and prayed for thousands of years. Many people who have come here over the years attempt to describe the transcendent feeling this place can evoke. The sense of awe that the Tower gives us is truly timeless. As you explore the monument today, we invite you to reflect on this timelessness. What does Devils Tower mean to you? Carry this meaning with you as you continue to explore America's public lands.

While you are here, remember this place belongs to the public, which shares the tremendous responsibility of park stewardship. Please be mindful of this as you spend time taking in the grandeur of the Tower and its surrounding natural and cultural resources. Leave only footprints, take only photographs and make only memories.

Above all, be safe, and thank you for visiting.

Important Information

- The Tower is spiritually significant to many indigenous people; treat this place with respect.
- The speed limit on the main park road is 25 mph, in other areas of the park, it is lower.
- The main park road is three miles long from the entrance station to the visitor center.
- Restrooms are located near the visitor center year-round and at the picnic area and campground from May 15–October 15.
- In summer, parking near the visitor center is very limited:
 - It is often full between 10 am and 3 pm.
 - Consider parking in other designated areas during these peak visitation hours.
- For vehicles with trailers, long-vehicle parking spaces are available. Please unhook before heading to the visitor center – find this parking on the way to the picnic area.
- The picnic area provides trail access to the Circle of Sacred Smoke sculpture, prairie dog town, and the visitor center; it's a great alternative to parking at the visitor center.

Tower Trivia

- The Tower is 867 feet (264 meters) tall from the visitor center to the summit
- The monument is 1,374 acres, about 2.15 square miles
- This the United States' first national monument, dedicated September 24 1906 by Theodore Roosevelt
- The park's visitor center was finished in 1935
- The Tower is made out of phonolite porphyry, a rare igneous rock
- The top is about the size of an American football field and covered in plants
- The park sees over 500,000 visitors a year, most from May to September
- An over 13 acre boulder field encircles the south and west face of the Tower
- There are 4,000 to 5,000 climbs of the Tower every year
- A technical rock climb to the summit of the Tower takes an average of 5-8 hours; times vary between 18 minutes and 16 hours!
- The first bridge across the river was built in 1928... 22 years after we became a park!

During Your Visit Have a safe and enjoyable visit by remembering these park regulations and advisories.



Respect nature.

Leave plants, rocks, and artifacts where you see them. Stay on trails to protect plants.



Drink water.

Heat-related illness is very common. Stay hydrated. Water bottle filling stations are available near the visitor center and in the picnic area and campground.



Do not feed wildlife.

It is illegal to feed wildlife, including prairie dogs. It is also dangerous and harmful to both humans and animals.



Monitor weather conditions.

Sudden weather changes are possible. Thunderstorms and hail are common in the Black Hills. The safest place is your vehicle.



Keep drones at home.

Launching, landing, or operating remotely piloted aircraft is prohibited within the monument.



Be responsible with pets.

Pets are not allowed on trails. Pet must be leashed. Pet-friendly areas include parking areas, roadways, the campground and picnic area.

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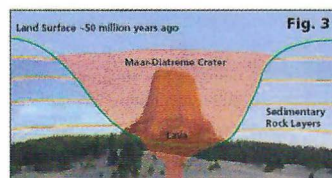
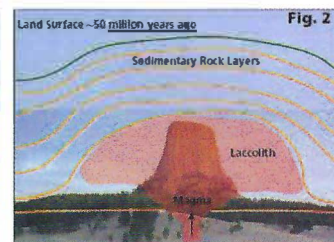
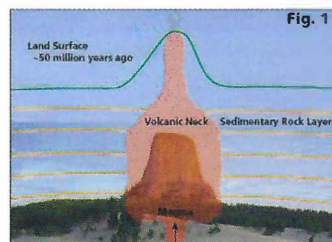
Learn about geology



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Devils Tower Rocks!

Devils Tower seemingly comes out of nowhere. The river and softer sedimentary rocks near the base indicate how this curious igneous rock stands so tall. However, geologists still wonder how exactly it formed. Although much of the Tower's geologic story is agreed upon, theories differ on specific details.



These diagrams represent three different ideas of how the Tower may have formed. (1) a volcanic neck or plug; (2) a laccolith intrusion; and (3) a maar-diatreme crater. The exact process which formed Devils Tower may remain a mystery for years to come. NPS diagrams



NPS Photo

Native Americans hold private ceremonies year-round, please respect their prayer bundles found throughout this spiritually significant site

Many people, many stories, one place.

The stories shared here are as varied as the columns which form the massive monolith. The National Park Service, Native Americans, local ranchers, rock climbers, and visitors from around the world contribute to these perspectives. The rich cultural history is undeniable. We encourage you to explore these stories to discover the relevance they provide.

Learn about the place



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Learn about the stories



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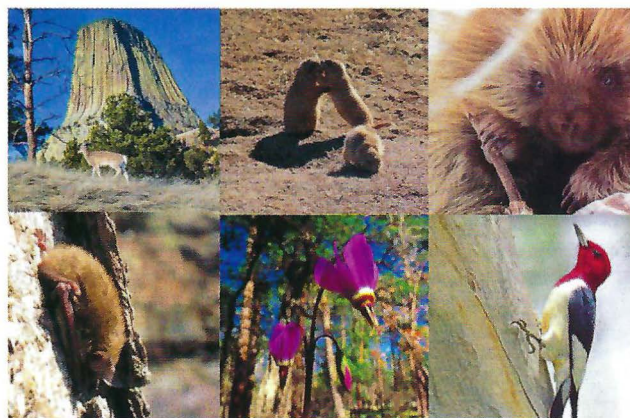
The Nature and Science of Bear Lodge

Learn about Nature & Science



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Many call this place Bear Lodge. There is not an established bear population anymore, but we continue to see a diverse array of life here, including 11 species of bats. The northern long-eared bat was recently classified as an endangered species due to the broad-ranging impacts of white-nose syndrome. Plants and animals alike all play their role in our corner of the greater Black Hills ecosystem.

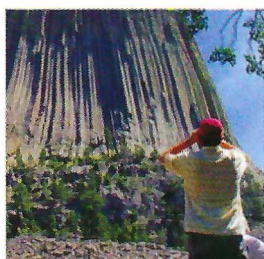


NPS Photos

Info on Hiking and Climbing



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DEVILS TOWER



NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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