



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lava Beds
National Monument

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Lava Beds National Monument News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lava Beds National Monument & Tule Lake Unit Set to Resume Interpretive Programs for the Summer!

National Park staff are pleased to announce summer interpretive programming at Lava Beds National Monument and the Tule Lake Unit of WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument. Guided walks, cave tours, and patio talks will be offered each weekend May 23rd through June 21st at Lava Beds. June 22 through Labor Day, programs will be offered daily. The monument's visitor center will be open from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM beginning Memorial Day weekend to better serve the needs of visitors during the summer.

Due to high public demand, Lava Beds will daily offer at least one guided cave tour throughout the summer. Tours range in difficulty from easy walks to more challenging excursions. Tickets for the cave tours will be given out for free on a first come first served basis at the visitor center each day. There are many exciting caves to explore on your own as well, including Catacombs, Golden Dome and Sentinel – just stop in the visitor center for more information.

A Fern Cave tour is also offered each Saturday from June 7 through October 25. Fern Cave is only accessible with a ranger because of the exceptionally fragile and sensitive resources. Reservations are accepted for six people per tour up to three weeks in advance, and are always in high demand. Due to the sensitive cultural and ecological nature of this cave, tour participants must be at least 12 years of age and able to negotiate a ladder and slippery floor. Free reservations are accepted by phone (530-667-8113) or in person at the visitor center.

Whether participating in a cave tour or caving on your own, visitors should come prepared to “cave safely, cave softly” with long pants, long-sleeved shirts, closed-toed shoes, head protection, and a flashlight for each person. Flashlights may be borrowed at no cost from the

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visitor center during open hours, and hardhats are available for purchase. Those interested in trying out difficult caves should also bring kneepads and sturdy gloves.

Additional interpretive walks and talks will be offered each summer morning. Lava Beds' Junior Ranger and Night Sky Junior Ranger booklets are always available at the visitor center desk.

A weekly schedule of interpretive program topics and locations is available at the Lava Beds Visitor Center, on bulletin boards throughout the monument, or by calling the visitor center at 530-667-8113. More information is always available on the monument's website at www.nps.gov/labe.

The Tule Lake Unit will offer tours of Camp Tulelake and the Tule Lake Segregation Center on Saturdays starting May 24, and continuing through Labor Day. Due to limited space on each tour, reservations are encouraged, and can be made by calling 530-260-0537. The Tule Lake contact station located in the Tulelake Butte Valley Fairgrounds Museum will be open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

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Lava Beds National Monument, established in 1925, is a land of turmoil, both geologic and historic. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features. Lava tube caves, Native American sites, historic battlefields and a high desert wilderness experience await you!

For more information about visiting Lava Beds National Monument, call 530-667-8100, email labe_interpretation@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/labe.

The Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, established in 2008, is a nationally significant site dedicated to telling the story of the cost of war on the home front and the lasting effects of the unjust incarceration of over 29,000 US citizens and long-term residents of Japanese ancestry at the Tule Lake Segregation Center.

For more information about visiting the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, call 530-260-0537, email tule_interpretation@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/tule.

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