

Field Trips at Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument

Teacher Quick Facts

What to see and do:

Visitor Center and Museum

Lenox Trail

Lava Flow Trail

Trails are located approximately 1.5 miles from the visitor center.
Lenox Trail does not have parking for buses.

Basics:

Hours:

Park Hours are from 9:00 to 5:00 (Nov to Apr) and 8:00 to 5:00 (May to Oct)
Open every day except December 25th

Description:

Small museum with interactive exhibits on history and geology of Sunset Crater Volcano

1 mile roundtrip up the steep slope of a cinder cone volcano

Trail winds through the lava flow at the base of Sunset Crater Volcano; ¼ mile paved and ¾ mile unpaved

Average Visit:

30 minutes

40 minutes (trail is steep, please take frequent breaks)

40 minutes (paved + unpaved trail portions)

Logistics:

Trail/Group Capacity:

15 -20

15 -20

15 -20

Gift Shop / Bookstore:

Teachers receive 20% discount and there is no sales tax

None

None

Food Availability:

NO food available; vending machines for water and sports drink

None

None

Picnic Sites:

Three tables available on a first come first serve basis

None

Four tables available on a first come first serve basis

Restrooms:

Facilities for two girls and three boys at a time

None

Facilities for two girls and three boys at a time

Driving Distances:

From Flagstaff, approx 20 miles / 30 minutes
From Wupatki National Monument, approximately 20 miles / 30 minutes
From Walnut Canyon, approximately 24 miles / 40 minutes

Common Teacher Questions:

How do I reserve a field trip time and date?

Please remember, scheduling a field trip requires a *1-month* notification. To begin the process, go to the [Plan a Field Trip](#) on our webpage: nps.gov/sucr and follow the steps for the required documentation.

What happens when I get to the park?

- STEP 1: Teacher checks into the visitor center *prior* to unloading the bus.
- STEP 2: Use bathroom facilities, gather group for orientation program.
- STEP 3: 10-15 minute Ranger Orientation.
- STEP 4: Break large groups into smaller groups as specified by trail capacity (see above).

What do I need to know about preserving and protecting Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument?

Have appropriate teacher and chaperone presence with all groups: 1 chaperone for every 5 students in kindergarten to 5th grade, for every 12 students in 6th to 12th grade, and for every 20 college students. Also, go to our webpage: nps.gov/sucr for rules and regulations so that you can familiarize *all* field trip members with park rules and regulations.

What do I need to know about any safety issues?

Regardless of season, ensure that all group members have adequate *sunscreen* and *water*. If enjoying the Lenox Crater Trail, ensure that all group members *take their time* when ascending.

Is it possible to visit more than one Flagstaff Area Monument in the same day?

Yes, visiting more than one monument is possible; however, driving distances and times *must* be planned accordingly. Please note above sections for park hours, driving distances and times, and any trail restrictions.

Who can I call when I have more questions?

For fee waiver questions, please call the fee waiver coordinator at 928-526-1157, extension 239. For park specific questions, call Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument at 928-526-0502; ask for the school group liaison.