You can see that many kinds of plants and flowers have established themselves here. Eighty-three square miles of this extraordinary volcanic region have been declared as Craters of the Moon National Monument. In features are readily accessible for your exploration, study, and enjoyment.

How was this landscape formed? For the answer we suggest you first stop at the visitor center. Then you may wish to visit the Road Overlook for a closer view of the landscape and for the surrounding craters. The craters, of course, tell the story.

The lava floods destroyed all vegetation in the open cinder slopes. Dwarf monkeyflowers (dwarf monkeyflower) bloomed on some of the younger flows. Some fine examples of ropy pahoehoe lava may be seen on the North Crater Flow. When the lava is about 900°F and some lava crust is too hard to move as it cools, its surface is wrinkled as the molten material continues to protrude. The broken lava caverns indicate that eruptions took place during the past 1,000 years. The regular spacing of cinder layers indicating that eruptions took place during the past 1,000 years. The regular spacing of cinder layers indicates that eruptions took place during the past 1,000 years.

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of lava flow. The surface of a pahoehoe flow may harden while the lava continues to flow beneath it in a self-made tube. When the eruption diminishes, the lava may drain out of the tube, leaving a cave. Entrance to the smaller cave—Beauty, Surprise, Dewdrop, and Bay Sout—is difficult, and a lanter is necessary. Bay Sout Cave has a floor of ice, even in summer. This natural icebox was formed when rain and melting snow seeped into the cave and was cooled to a subfreezing temperature by long winters.

Naturalist activities are on duty in the visitor center and along trails to assist you. Each evening in summer, an illustrated program on the geology, plants, or wildlife of the park is given at the campground. Conducted hikes are scheduled daily in the summer.

Human history
An ancient Indian trail followed the Great Rift, and caves along the route were used as temporary shelters and at times as strongholds. At Indian Tunnel the semicircular arrangements of stone indicate that they were either used for protection from the winds or as fireplaces. Arrowheads and other stone implements were previously found in this vicinity.

The lava fields in general and the rugged area of Craters of the Moon in particular have been barriers to westward migration and to local settlement. All early travelers avoided crossing the area of Craters of the Moon. Some have come from all parts of the world to enjoy and study this once-shunned world to enjoy and study this once-shunned

Please stay on the trails.

Administration
Craters of the Moon National Monument, 8 miles southwest of Arco on U.S. 20, 26, and 29A, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The visitor center, which is open year round, contains fine exhibits explaining the volcanic formations, plants, animals, and the history of the park. Also in this building are the administrative offices and restrooms. Gasoline, food, and souvenirs are not sold in the park.

Help preserve the park
To protect the natural condition of the park, please do not damage the valuable features or disturb bottom, trees, and rocks, or molest the wildlife. Use of firearms is not permitted. Drive only on established roads and turnouts. Camp and picnic in the established campgrounds. Help keep the park clean. Pets are allowed, provided you keep them under physical restraint at all times. Please stay on the trails.

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