Welcome!

Lassen Volcanic National Park receives as much as 30 feet of snow in its winter season. The resulting snowpack often lasts more than half of the year (approximately November to June). Despite the heavy snowfall, sunny skies are common between storms. These windows of “blue bird” days provide excellent opportunities to explore the park by snowshoe or ski or to simply enjoy the sights and sounds of winter.

Vehicle Access

The Manzanita Lake and Southwest Areas of the park are accessible throughout the winter season. Visitors can travel two miles from SR-44 to the Loomis Plaza in the Manzanita Lake Area or five miles north of SR-36 to the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center in the Southwest Area (see map on page 3).

The park highway is closed to through traffic due to snow approximately November through May. During heavy winters, the highway may close to through traffic as early as late-October and open as late as mid-July. Other park roads to Juniper Lake, Butte Lake, and Warner Valley Areas are also closed in winter.

Two routes around the park connect the Manzanita Lake and Southwest Areas. Travel time is approximately 90 minutes to 2 hours in normal winter driving conditions. Learn more on page 8.

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Need More Help?

Visit nps.gov/lavo
Email lavo_information@nps.gov
Call (530) 595-4480
Write P.O. Box 100, Mineral, CA 96063

Sulphur Works Hydrothermal Area

Experience the sights, sounds, and smells of the park’s most accessible hydrothermal area. Snowshoe or ski one mile from the visitor center along the snow-covered park highway to reach this steamy spot. Learn more on page 7.

Maintain a safe distance from hydrothermal features. Visitors have been severely burned by hot mud and water.

Backcountry Skiing/Snowboarding

Experienced backcountry users will appreciate the spectacular terrain and uncommon solitude in the Southwest Area. Learn more about avalanche safety and routes on page 7.

Ranger-led Snowshoe Walks

Ranger-led snowshoe walks will not be offered this year due to COVID-19 response.

Manzanita Lake Area

Manzanita Lake Area (5,800 elevation) consists of gentle slopes and scenic lakes. It offers the easiest routes for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in the park. See page 3 for location.

Loomis Plaza

The plaza includes a heated restroom, pay phone, and informational signage. The far end of the plaza is one of multiple access points for the Manzanita Lake loop.

Manzanita Lake Snowshoe Route

This 1.8-mile loop offers spectacular views of Lassen Peak and Chaos Crags. Pick up the trail anywhere between the entrance station and Loomis Plaza. This trail follows a narrow shoreline and is not recommended for skiing. More on page 6.

Cross-Country Skiing

The snow-covered park highway is the most popular cross-country ski route in the park. The Manzanita Lake Area offers a gentler and more gradual climb than in the Southwest Area. There are no groomed trails in the park, however ski tracks often last between storms along this well-shaded corridor. Learn more on page 6.

Sledding Areas

Small hills on the northern shore of Manzanita Lake and in the Chaos Jumbles Area can be fun with small children or those new to sledding. Steeper terrain can be found at the popular Eskimo Hill snow play area located 1.2 miles east of the park turnoff on SR-44/89 (map on page 3).

Sled with caution; sledding is the number one cause of visitor injury in the winter season.
Facilities and Services

Availability of Facilities and Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Southwest Area</th>
<th>Manzanita Lake Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center open Wed-Sun, 9 am - 5 pm plus Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Presidents' Day</td>
<td>Information kiosks in Loomis Plaza (unstaffed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Aid</td>
<td>In visitor center during regular hours Call 911 after hours - emergency phone in 24-hour vestibule</td>
<td>Call 911 - pay phone in Loomis Plaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel</td>
<td>No winter fuel services in the park; nearby gas stations shown on the regional map on page 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td>Inside the 24-hour vestibule at visitor center entrance</td>
<td>In Loomis Plaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies &amp; Gifts</td>
<td>Gift Shop and Lassen Association Store inside (see hours below)</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodging</td>
<td>No winter lodging in the park October through May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dining</td>
<td>Light snacks and hot drinks weekends, 11 am - 2 pm Vending machine items available Wed-Sun, 9 am - 5 pm</td>
<td>Not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campground</td>
<td>Southwest Campground open for oversnow camping</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry Permits</td>
<td>Self-registration inside visitor center 24-hour vestibule</td>
<td>Self-registration outside Ranger Station</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Southwest Area Facilities and Services

Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center
The visitor center may close at any time due to inclement weather. Please do not camp or cook inside the vestibule.

- **Winter Season**: November 1 through April 30
- **Open**: Wednesday through Sunday 9 am to 5 pm January 18, 2021 (MLK Day) February 15, 2021 (Presidents’ Day)
- **Closed**: Mondays and Tuesdays Thanksgiving and Christmas

Lassen Café & Gift
Browse the gift shop for souvenirs including art and crafts from local artists, or enjoy café offerings including self-serve frozen items, snacks, and hot and cold beverages during operating hours. You are also welcome to bring your own meal to enjoy in the dining area.

- **Hours**: 11 am to 2 pm
- **Days**: Weekends only*
  *
*May also be open on selected holiday period weekdays. More at go.nps.gov/lavo/hours.

Lassen Association Store
Open during visitor center hours
Browse books, maps, trail guides, and videos about the park’s natural and cultural history at the Lassen Association store. Choose from a wide selection of educational gift merchandise to enhance your park experience and take home as memories. All profits go directly to the park.

Lost & Found
Retrieve lost items or drop off found items inside the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center.

Wi-Fi
Free Wi-Fi is available at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center. You must open a browser and agree to terms of use to connect to NPS Visitor WiFi. Please note that bandwidth is very limited and service may be slow or unavailable during busy times.

Southwest Winter Camping
The Southwest Campground is open for oversnow camping. Fires and fire pans are not permitted in the winter. Self-contained barbecues are allowed in the paved parking area. The fee for tent or vehicle camping is $10 per night.

Tents are permitted only in the oversnow tent camping area, not in the parking area. Overnight vehicles must park between islands to allow for snow plowing operations. Please self-register at the entrance station.
Winter Preparedness and Safety

Weather
With elevations from 5,650 feet to 10,457 feet, a wide variety of weather conditions occur in the park. Expect a 5° temperature decrease for every 1,000 foot increase in elevation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Average High/Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>56/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>50/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>48/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>47/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>53/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>61/23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date Sunrise Sunset
11/15 6:55 am 4:51 pm
12/15 7:25 am 4:43 pm
1/15 7:31 am 5:06 pm
2/15 7:03 am 5:44 pm
3/15* 7:20 am 7:17 pm
4/15 6:30 am 7:49 pm
5/15 5:52 am 8:20 pm

Data for Manzanita Lake Area (5,850 ft elevation) Daylight savings time begins 3/14/21

Dress for Success
Even in winter conditions, you can improve your comfort and safety by dressing properly.

- Wear clothes in several layers including waterproof outerwear, warm underlayers, a hat, and gloves.
- Avoid cotton clothes of any kind, including jeans, sweatshirts, underwear, or socks. They retain moisture and put you at risk for hypothermia.
- Wear polyester or wool whenever possible, these fabrics wick moisture from your skin and help keep you dry.
- Wear sunglasses to protect from light reflected by snow; polarized lenses are best.

Are You Prepared?
You are responsible for your safety.
A few suggestions to help you improve your safety:
- Wear waterproof and insulated footwear
- Bring water and extra food
- Carry extra layers for warmth
- Take breaks often
- Carry sunscreen and sunglasses
- Bring a flashlight or headlamp
- Finish your outing before dark
- Tell someone where you are going and when you will return
- Check the weather forecast at the visitor center or online at go.nps.gov/lavo/current

Know the Risks
Enjoying winter at Lassen involves risk. Be aware of and prepared for winter conditions and their associated risks:
- Deep snow/heavy snowfall
- Sudden changes in weather
- Cold temperatures
- Sun exposure
- Avalanche terrain
- Sport-related injuries (sledding is the number one cause of injury)
- High elevation/altitude effects

Effects of High Elevation
Hiking at high elevation can aggravate pre-existing medical conditions. Carry plenty of water, take breaks often, and do not exceed your abilities.
If you start to experience any symptoms of altitude sickness (headache, dizziness, shortness of breath, confusion, pain behind the eyes, nausea), descend immediately. Seek medical attention from a ranger or doctor.
**General Information**

### Spring Snow Clearing

Snow removal from the park highway usually begins in April and continues for about two months before the highway opens to through traffic. Visit go.nps.gov/lavo/snowclearing for spring road information.

The high-elevation park highway encompasses 30 miles of stunning views with hairpin turns, steep grades, and avalanche-prone slopes with up to 2,000-foot drops. The steep terrain combined with heavy snowfall can result in snowdrifts up to 40 feet deep.

Predicting when the highway will open is not possible, even in late spring, because weather in April and May can affect snowing progress significantly. See the chart below for opening and closing dates for the last ten years.

#### Year | Date plowing began | Date road opened | Date road closed
--- | --- | --- | ---
2010 | April 19 | July 8 | October 23
2011 | April 19 | July 16 | November 22
2012 | April 21 | June 1 | November 19
2013 | March 21 | May 24 | December 18
2014 | April 2 | May 19 | December 1
2015 | March 30 | May 3 | November 8
2016 | April 18 | June 12 | October 30
2017 | April 7 | July 26 | November 10
2018 | March 30 | May 27 | November 20
2019 | April 22 | June 22 | November 29
2020 | March 19 | May 29 |

### Hike and Bike the Highway (HBH)

Hike and Bike the Highway (HBH) is an opportunity for visitors to enjoy cleared sections of the highway before they open to vehicles.

The park highway usually opens in segments as snow clearing operations progress. The usual order of opening is:

- Loomis Museum to Devastated Area - 10 mi
- Southwest Entrance to Sulphur Works - 1 mi
- Sulphur Works to Bumpass Dell parking - 7 mi
- Lassen Peak parking area - 8 mi

Open to through traffic - 30 mi

You can view which segments of the highway will be open during your visit on the spring road opening map at go.nps.gov/lavo/snowclearing.

Generally, the timing of openings is largely dependent on snow depth, snow clearing operations, and conditions at the time of anticipated opening. Learn more about HBH at go.nps.gov/hbh.

### Accessibility

Facilities in the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center and Loomis Plaza are accessible. An Accessibility Guide to Lassen Volcanic is available at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center and online at go.nps.gov/lavo/access.

Service animals are allowed in all facilities and on all trails unless an area has been closed by the superintendent to protect park resources. Service animals must always be leashed or harnessed, under control, and attended at all times.

### Backcountry Permits

Backcountry camping permits are required for overnight use outside of the Southwest Campground. Self-registration is available outside the Loomis Ranger Station and in the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center 24-hour vestibule.

### Cell Service

Cell service (AT&T and Verizon) is very limited in the park and surrounding areas. View spots with limited coverage on the map on page 3.

#### Entrance Fees

All visitors must pay an entrance fee. Display your fee receipt, Lassen Annual Pass, or Interagency Pass on your vehicle's dashboard. Entrance fee payment is usually self-serve and cannot be paid at the visitor center. Bring a check or exact change or purchase an annual pass online prior to your visit.

### 1-7 Day Vehicle Fee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date range</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 1 to April 15</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16 to November 30</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Annual Passes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>$80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>$20 Annual / $80 Lifetime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access</td>
<td>$20 Annual / $80 Lifetime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>Free with identification CAC Card/DD Form 1173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Grade Free</td>
<td>Free at everykidoutdoors.gov</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Park Partners

**Lassen Association** is a non-profit partner that promotes the discovery of Lassen Volcanic, enriches the experience of visitors, and supports the preservation and protection of the park for future generations.

**Shop the Store, Support Your Park**

Profits from Lassen Association stores directly support park research, conservation, and education programs. Browse a wide selection of books, maps, trail guides, videos, and educational gifts in park stores or online at lassenassociation.org.

### Dog in the Park

Dogs and other pets are welcome in parking areas and in the Loomis Plaza. Pets must be leashed at all times and are not permitted on trails/routes (including over the snow) or inside visitor centers or other facilities.

### Why Are Dogs Limited to Paved Areas?

Dogs are predators that could chase, scare, kill, and transmit diseases to wild animals.

Wild animals can transmit diseases including bubonic plague to pets (and then to humans).

Pets are permitted in most areas of the surrounding Lassen National Forest. Learn more about the McGowan Ski Area near the Southwest Entrance on page 7 or other nearby areas to take your pet at go.nps.gov/lavo/pets.

### Emergencies

If you have an emergency call 911. If phone service is not available, contact a park employee, go to the Loomis Ranger Station, or use the emergency phone in the 24-hour vestibule of the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center.

### Equipment Rental

Equipment rental is not available in the park. Equipment rental is available in Mineral, Childs Meadow, Chester, Redding, and Chico.

### Firearms

Visitors are responsible for understanding and complying with all applicable State of California, local, and federal firearms laws. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park identified by posted signs at public entrances. For more information visit oag.ca.gov/firearms or email lavo_information@nps.gov.

### Lassen Park Foundation

Lassen Park Foundation provides philanthropic support to Lassen Volcanic National Park and invites all, especially youth, to experience and preserve the natural and cultural resources of this special place.

With the generosity and dedication of our supporters, the non-profit Park Foundation has provided funding for projects including the winter snowshoe education program, Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, and Volcano Adventure Camp (youth camping facility).

Please become a Friend of Lassen by contributing to the Lassen Park Foundation! Your donation is tax-deductible.

**Lassen Park Foundation**

(530) 768-1110
info@lassenparkfoundation.org
lassenparkfoundation.org
Winter Wildlife

Can you spot these winter residents or signs of their presence such as tracks or scat? These animals have adaptations to survive Lassen’s harsh winters, such as storing food and developing thicker coats.

Steller’s Jay
Cyanocitta stelleri
This large, dark jay swoops on its broad, rounded wings. Keep an eye on your winter picnic as they are quick to spot unattended food. Steller’s and Blue Jays are the only northern American jays with crests.

Mountain Chickadee
Poecile gambeli
Sparrow-sized, small-billed bird often sighted in trees throughout the winter months. Makes two distinctive calls, “chicka-dee-dee-de” and another that sounds strikingly like “cheeseburger!”

Clark’s Nutcracker
Nucifraga columbiana
This member of the crow family caches thousands of seeds each year. Easy to spot throughout the park as they swoop between trees. Listen for their frequent long, grating calls.

Snowshoe Hare
Lepus americanus
Slightly larger than rabbits, with taller hind legs and longer ears. Their large, furry feet help them move atop snow and a snow-white winter coat turns brown when the snow melts each spring.

American “Pine” Marten
Martes americana
Cat-sized weasel with a long, slender body, short legs, rounded ears, and a bushy tail. The marten may be active as little as 15% of the day in the winter. Spotted occasionally in the Southwest Area.

Lassen’s Own Sierra Nevada Red Fox

A Sierra Nevada red fox (Vulpes vulpes necator) captured on a motion-sensor camera in Lassen Volcanic.

Lassen Volcanic National Park is one of two known habitats for Sierra Nevada red fox (SNRF). Although once found throughout the Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascade mountain ranges, the species is now one of the rarest mammals in California.

Researchers estimate the Lassen area population consists of only about 20 individuals, based on survey findings from 2009 to 2011. An ongoing survey effort in and around Lassen Volcanic may provide our best opportunity for understanding and fostering Lassen’s native red fox.

Smaller in size than low-elevation red foxes, SNRFs generally weigh 4.5 to 9 pounds, have a narrow pointed muzzle, large pointed ears, and a slender body and legs.

SNRFs are typically yellowish to reddish brown, but, despite their name, can also be black or silver. Handsome dark-brown markings adorn the top of their ears and shins, and white covers their chest and stomach. Their bushy fox tail always has a white tip, is long and flowing and carried close to the ground where it adds an additional dimension to their length.

Recreate Responsibly
The National Park Service encourages all visitors to make responsible decisions and follow Center for Disease Control guidance to help reduce the spread of COVID-19:

Practice social distancing. Maintain at least 6 feet (1.8 meters) of distance between you and others.

Wear a face covering when social distancing cannot be maintained.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze (not with your hands).

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Most importantly, please return home and stay at home if you feel sick.

Access to and availability of park services and facilities may be impacted by COVID-19 response. We appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we adapt for the safety of both staff and visitors. View current modifications at go.nps.gov/lavo/current.

Prohibited Activities
These activities are dangerous or destructive and carry legal penalties, including fines:

- Bringing pets on trails or routes; including over the snow or in a carrier.
- Camping outside of designated campsites or overnight parking areas.
- Feeding wildlife (includes littering).
- Launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft (drones) on park lands and waters.
- Snowmobiling within park boundaries.
- Carrying a firearm into park buildings.
- Traveling or camping too close to hydrothermal areas. Visitors have been severely injured by walking too close to hydrothermal features.

This is only a partial list of regulations. For more information, consult 36 Code of Federal Regulations and the Superintendent’s Compendium available at go.nps.gov/lavo/regs.

Help Keep Wild Animals Wild

Enjoy your food, but please do not share with park animals. Winter residents each have their own special adaptations that help them survive the long winter season.

Bad for wildlife:
Wildlife can become dependent on people for food. Animals that cannot find food on their own may starve.

Wild animals can become unhealthy or die from eating human food instead of their natural food.

Bad for you:
Small rodents and birds can and will bite the hand that feeds them, transmitting a variety of diseases.

Animals may carry rabies and you will have to get shots if bitten.

Animals lose their wariness of people and become aggressive. Larger animals, such as deer, have been known to buck or kick suddenly and cause serious injuries.

Wildlife may carry diseases that your pets are not protected from.

Report a Red Fox Sighting
If you observe a red fox or signs of its presence in the Sierra Nevada, Southern Cascade, or Klamath mountain ranges above 2,500 feet elevation, please report your observation by providing: date and time observed, location (e.g. rocky slope/ forest/meadow), photos, and GPS location.

Learn more or report a sighting at go.nps.gov/lavo/SNRF.

Become a Junior Ranger
Kids age five and older are invited to participate in our Junior Ranger program. Choose from a variety of activities to earn an official Junior Ranger badge.

Our younger explorers are welcome to participate in the Chipmunk Club. Kids can learn more about wildlife in the park and earn a Chipmunk Club sticker.

Pick up your Chipmunk Club card or Junior Ranger booklet at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center or print one online at go.nps.gov/lavo/jr.

Helpful Tip: The Chipmunk Club booklet includes a list of other Junior Ranger programs around the park.

Become a Junior Ranger

This is only a partial list of regulations. For more information, consult 36 Code of Federal Regulations and the Superintendent’s Compendium available at go.nps.gov/lavo/regs.
Manzanita Lake Area Winter Routes

**Beginner Routes**

**Manzanita Lake Snowshoe Loop**
This route is not recommended for skiing.
Distance: 1.8 mile loop
Elevation: 5,800 to 5,850 feet
Average Skiing Time: 1 hour

Begin near the Loomis Ranger Station and circle the lake in either direction. This route provides excellent views of Lassen Peak and Chaos Crags. Please stay off lake ice, it is unstable and shores may be difficult to recognize under snow.

**Reflection Lake Snowshoe Loop**
This route is not recommended for skiing.
Distance: 0.5 mile loop
Elevation: 5,800 feet
Average Skiing Time: 30 minutes

Begin at the shore across the highway from the Loomis Museum and circle the lake in either direction. It may be necessary to follow the park highway for a short section of the lake edge closest to the road. Please stay off lake ice, it may be unstable and shores can be difficult to recognize under snow.

**Manzanita Campground Loop**
Distance: 1.5 mile loop
Elevation: 5,800 feet
Average Skiing Time: 1.5 hours

Cross the footbridge by the Loomis Ranger Station, turn right and follow the road to the campground for approximately a quarter mile to the base of Table Mountain. The trail climbs over a flank of Table Mountain into fir forest and rejoins the park highway at Sunflower Flat. If you decide to descend to Crags Lake, beware of potential rockfall and high winds.

**Intermediate Routes**

**Chaos Jumbles Area**
Distance: 1.2+ miles round-trip
Elevation: 5,900 to 6,187 feet
Average Skiing Time: 1 hour

Head up the park highway for 0.6 mile to an open area of stunted trees. Veer to the right up toward Chaos Crags. Here, the undulating topography slopes up into the bowl of the Crags. The terrain is easy to moderately difficult with excellent views at the higher elevations.

**Chaos Crags Route**
This route is not recommended for skiing.
Distance: 4 miles round-trip
Elevation: 5,900 to 6,650 feet
Average Skiing Time: 3-4 hours

Cross the footbridge by the Loomis Ranger Station, turn left and follow the road to the Chaos Crags Trailhead sign. Follow yellow tree markers as the route climbs steeply up to a ridge. If you decide to descend to Crags Lake, beware of potential rockfall and high winds.

**Nobles Emigrant Route**
Distance: 5.2 miles round-trip
Elevation: 5,875 to 6,275 feet
Average Skiing Time: 3-4 hours

Pick up the route north of Reflection Lake or at the trailhead off a service road west of Reflection Lake. Follow the orange tree markers along the base of Table Mountain. The trail climbs over a flank of Table Mountain into fir forest and rejoins the park highway at Sunflower Flat. Return the way you came or via the park highway to make a loop.

**Manzanita Creek**
Distance: 7.5 miles round-trip
Elevation: 5,830 to 7,100 feet
Average Skiing Time: 8 hours

From the Loomis Ranger Station, cross a footbridge, then turn right onto the Manzanita Lake Campground road. Travel through the campground to the Manzanita Lake Campground and park highway sign. The route is mostly a gradual climb. Beware of avalanche chutes off of Loomis Peak that may reach the upper end of the route.

**Park Highway Destinations**
The park highway route begins at the road closure gate just beyond the Loomis Plaza parking area. Destinations beyond Lost Creek Campground area are recommended for overnight trips only.

**Sunflower Flat**
Distance: 2.5 miles one-way
Elevation: 5,995 feet
Estimated Time: 2 hours

**Lost Creek Campground**
Distance: 4 miles one-way
Elevation: 5,628 feet
Estimated Time: 3-4 hours

**Hot Rock**
Distance: 6.7 miles one-way
Elevation: 6,157 feet
Estimated Time: Overnight

**Devastated Area**
Distance: 8.7 miles one-way
Elevation: 6,456 feet
Estimated Time: Overnight

**Manzanita Lake Area Winter Routes Map**

Winter Etiquette

Do not walk on ski tracks.
Footprints and snowshoe tracks create hazards that make skiing more difficult.

Snowshoe parallel to the ski track.
Using a separate track ensures snowshoers remain clear of downhill skiers.

Yield to faster skiers or downhill traffic.
Step to the side to allow skiers traveling downhill to safely pass. In all other cases, yield to those traveling uphill, as they are working harder and have the right of way.

Please be courteous and do not walk in ski tracks.
Southwest Area Winter Routes

Beginner Routes

Sulphur Works
- **Distance:** 2 miles round-trip
- **Elevation:** 6,700 to 7,000 feet
- **Average Skiing Time:** 1 hour
- Marvel at boiling mudpots and steam vents at Sulphur Works hydrothermal area. Follow the park highway route from the southwest parking area. The left side of the route is bordered by steep side hills, be aware of avalanche danger. For your safety, do not travel or camp in or near hydrothermal areas. The snow surrounding these areas may look solid, but may actually be a weak snow layer hiding pools of acidic boiling water. Maintain a safe distance from hydrothermal features. Visitors have been severely burned by hot mud and water.
- Pets are welcome in this Lassen National Forest area south of the park.

McGowan Cross-Country Ski Area
- **Distance:** 5 miles to Nanny Creek one-way
- **Elevation:** 6,080 to 5,110 feet
- **Average Skiing Time:** 4 hours
- The McGowan Cross-Country Ski Area is located in Lassen National Forest, 2.5 miles south of the Southwest Entrance. Marked routes travel across a flat and slightly descending landscape. Ask a ranger for a map of the ski area or visit go.nps.gov/lavo/skiing.

Intermediate Routes

Ridge Lakes
- **Distance:** 4 miles round-trip
- **Elevation:** 7,000 to 8,000 feet
- **Average Skiing Time:** 4 hours
- Follow the park highway route from the southwest parking area about ¾ mile and cross the bridge before Sulphur Works. The route begins at the north end of the flat area to the left. The route climbs rapidly along the east side of West Sulphur Creek to the Ridge Lakes basin. Several good camping spots can be found on the north shore of Ridge Lakes. If weather is severe, more protected camping can be found about ¼ mile below Ridge Lakes along its outlet creek. Avoid the area south of Ridge Lakes during periods of avalanche danger.
- **Average Skiing Time:** 1 hour
- **Elevation:** 6,080 to 5,110 feet
- **Distance:** 2.5 miles

Diamond Peak
- **Distance:** 4 miles round-trip
- **Elevation:** 6,700 to 8,000 feet
- **Average Skiing Time:** 4 hours
- Follow the park highway route from the southwest parking area 1.5 miles to Windy Point. Veer left at the sign for Ranger Cutoff, just beyond the point. The route climbs a gentle slope to a ridge with excellent views of Brokeoff Mountain and Sulphur Works. Stop here or continue along the ridge as it gradually narrows, providing views of Lassen Peak and eventually opening onto a steep slope at the western foot of Diamond Peak. Return using the same route; avoid descending the avalanche-prone slopes above the Sulphur Works area.
- **Average Skiing Time:** 4 hours
- **Elevation:** 7,000 to 8,000 feet
- **Distance:** 4 miles round-trip

Advanced Routes

Brokeoff Mountain
- **Distance:** 7 miles round-trip
- **Elevation:** 6,650 to 9,250 feet
- **Average Skiing Time:** 8 hours
- Traditional routes use the Forest Lake route or the summer trail that begins near the park entrance. Numerous avalanche paths exist on all aspects of the mountain. Travelers should use extreme caution. Many skiers reserve travel to the summit for spring when snow conditions traditionally stabilize. Summit conditions during inclement weather often include high winds with little or no visibility. Be cautious of overhanging cornices at the summit.

Lassen Peak
- **Distance:** 17 miles round-trip
- **Elevation:** 6,700 to 10,457 feet
- **Average Skiing Time:** 3 days
- Most travelers allow three days to summit Lassen Peak in the winter. Be prepared for high winds in the Lassen Peak and Lake Helen areas. Conditions on the mountain are most stable in early morning hours; afternoon travel is not recommended. The safest route up the mountain follows the summer trail through the forested section and continues on the southeast ridge to the summit. Weather conditions on Lassen Peak can deteriorate rapidly, creating white out conditions and high winds.

Southwest Area Winter Routes Map

Avalanche Safety
- **There is no avalanche forecast for the park**
- View the park Avalanche Awareness Guide with an avalanche terrain map and links to avalanche forecasts for the nearby Shasta and Tahoe areas at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center or go.nps.gov/winter_safety.
- Lassen is avalanche country. Each year avalanches claim more than 150 lives worldwide. Knowledge, information, and equipment are key to preventing and surviving avalanche accidents.
- Before you enter the backcountry, ensure that you have a solid understanding of avalanche awareness. Carry avalanche gear including a shovel, probe, and transceiver/ beacon and know how to use them.
- Be especially cautious during and after a snow storm. Spring road opening also warrants extra caution, as avalanches and rockslides can occur on plowed sections of the highway at any time.
- **Travel outside of the highway corridor is recommended only for experienced winter travelers.**

Backcountry users should carry avalanche gear and know how to use it. Learn more at go.nps.gov/winter_safety.
**Winter Travel**

Lassen Volcanic National Park Highway is closed to vehicles in the winter and spring. Follow the directions below for travel between the Southwest and Manzanita Lake Entrances. The route around the west side of the park is not recommended for RVs or trailers. For directions from Manzanita Lake to the Southwest Entrance, follow the directions below in reverse—be sure to reverse left and right turns.

**Travel Around the West Side of the Park**

This route is the shortest route around the park. This windy road is not recommended for RVs and trailers. Average travel time is one hour and 45 minutes.

1. From the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, head south on Lassen National Park Highway/SR-89 for 5 miles.
2. Turn right (west) on SR-36. Continue for 23 miles.
3. Turn right (north) onto Lanes Valley Road. A large road sign on the north side of the highway marks the turnoff approximately one mile before the town of Paynes Creek. Continue for 7 miles.
4. Turn right onto Manton Road/Co Rd A6.
5. Turn left onto Wildcat Road. Continue for 5.5 miles.
6. Turn right onto Black Butte Rd. Continue for 3.6 miles.
7. Turn right (east) onto SR-44. Continue for 24 miles.
8. Turn right (south) into the park. Continue 1 mile to the Manzanita Lake Area entrance.

**Travel Around the East Side of the Park**

Best route for RVs and Trailers

This route is slightly longer than the west route, however it has fewer curves and is appropriate for RVs and trailers. Average travel time is two hours.

1. From the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center, head south on Lassen National Park Highway/SR-89 for 5 miles.
2. Turn left (east) on SR-36. Continue 38 miles to CR A21/Mooney Road located in the town of Westwood. Continue for 18 miles. Please note that CR A21 may close during heavy snowfall. In the case of closure, follow SR-36 an additional 17 miles to the SR-44 junction just west of Susanville.
3. Turn left (west) onto SR-44. Continue for 28 miles.
4. Turn left (west) onto SR-44/89. Continue for 13.5 miles.
5. Turn left (south) into the park. Continue 1 mile to the Manzanita Lake Area entrance.

**Winter Driving**

Be prepared for icy or snowy conditions at high elevations during the fall and winter seasons. Conditions can be very hazardous, especially when temperatures drop during the evening and early morning hours.

- **Prevent Crashes**
  - Drive for the conditions
  - Slower speeds, slower acceleration
  - Leave room for longer stopping distances
  - Use small, slow motions
  - Ease on the brakes
  - Steer into the skid
  - Stomp, stay, steer with anti-lock brakes (ABS)

- **Protect Yourself**
  - Carry tire chains in your vehicle from October through May and know how to use them. Chain requirements can be instituted at any time; even four-wheel-drive vehicles with snow tires can be required to chain up.
  - If you get stuck, stay in your vehicle and call for help. Clear your exhaust pipe to prevent carbon monoxide build-up.
  - Keep a full gas tank whenever possible.

- **No Fuel in the Park**
  - There are no winter fuel services in the park. View nearby gas stations on the map above.

- **Cell Service Limited**
  - Cell service (AT&T and Verizon) is very limited in the park and surrounding areas. View spots with limited coverage on the map on page 3.

- **Emergencies**
  - If you have an emergency call 911. If phone service is not available, contact a park employee, go to the Loomis Ranger Station, or use the emergency phone in the 24-hour vestibule of the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center.

- **California Highway Information**
  - To check for chain requirements, road closures, or other highway advisories before your trip, call the CalTrans Highway Information Network at 1-800-427-7623 or visit roads.dot.ca.gov.