

General Information



Park Statistics

President Calvin Coolidge established Craters of the Moon National Monument on May 2, 1924. The 53,120 acre monument is a strange landscape of cinder cones, lava flows, and other volcanic formations. About 225,000 people visit the monument each year, primarily during the summer months.

The Superintendent of Craters of the Moon National Monument is Jim Morris. Address correspondence to:

National Park Service
P.O. Box 29
Arco, ID 83213
(208) 527-3257

Park Passports

Three types of passports are distributed at the entrance station. Golden Eagle Passports, good for entrance fees at all federal fee areas and valid for one year from the date of purchase, are available for \$50. Golden Access Passports are free to US citizens with a permanent disability and cover all entrance fees. US citizens 62 years of age or older may purchase Golden Age Passports for \$10. The Golden Age Passport is good for life and entitles the holder to half price on camping fees and free entrance to all federal fee areas.

Entrance Fees

The entrance fee is \$4 per vehicle. Those entering by bicycle, motorcycle, or on foot pay \$2 per person. Individuals age 16 and under enter free. The fee for commercial tour vehicles is based on capacity: \$30 for 1-6 passengers, \$45 for 7-25 passengers, and \$100 for 25 or more.

Camping

There is a 52-site campground among the lava formations beyond the visitor center. The camping fee is \$10 per night per campsite. Campsites are equipped with a picnic table and grill, with running water and restrooms nearby. There are no hookups, showers, or dump station. Because wood is scarce in this volcanic desert, wood fires are prohibited in the campground. Charcoal for cooking is on sale at the visitor center. Camping is on a first come, first served basis. However, the campground rarely fills, and finding a campsite is usually not a problem.

Weather

Spring weather is unpredictable. Strong winds may occur and snow and rain are common. Summer days are hot (70s to 90s) and nights are cool (40s to 50s). Strong afternoon winds occur almost daily, as do occasional thunderstorms. In fall, the weather is unsettled, with cool days and cold nights. Snow flurries may occur. Winter days are very cold and at night the temperature frequently drops below zero. The monument receives an average of 80 inches of snow per year.

Backcountry Camping

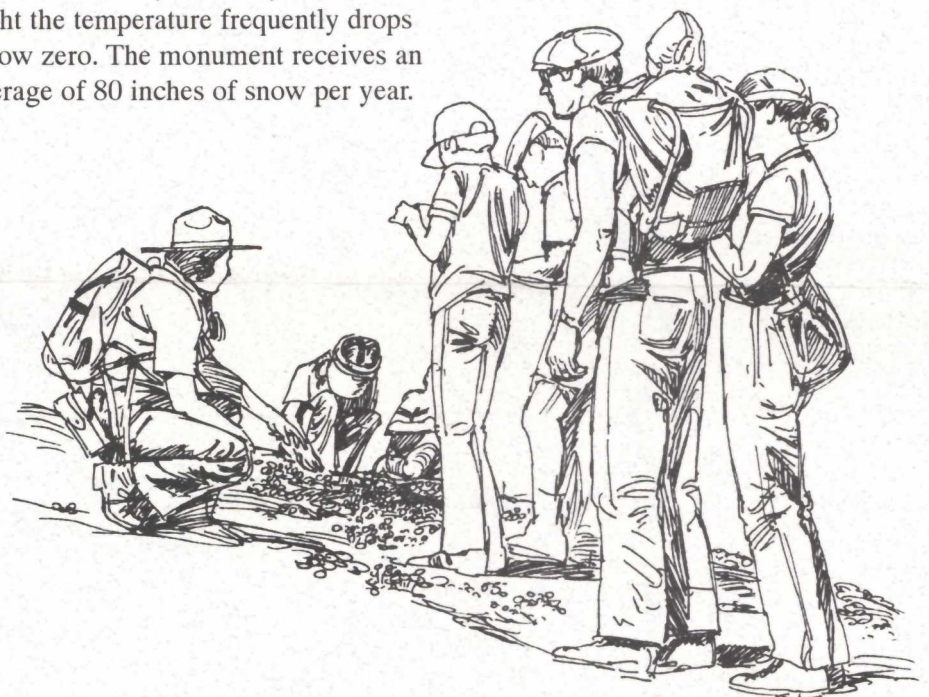
The Craters of the Moon wilderness offers hikers and backpackers solitude in a pristine and rugged landscape. A free backcountry permit is required for overnight travel in the wilderness area. Check at the visitor center for assistance in planning your trip. Day hikers need not obtain a permit.

Hours of Operation

The visitor center is open 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from early June through Labor Day. The remainder of the year visitor center hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The visitor center is closed on winter holidays. The Loop Drive through the monument remains open 24 hours a day, weather permitting.

Ranger Programs

The National Park Service offers guided walks and evening programs daily from mid-June through Labor Day. Check at the visitor center for details.



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The Monument in Winter

The 7-mile Loop Drive through the monument is closed from approximately November 1st to April 15th. When there is enough snow, the National Park Service grooms the Loop Drive for cross-country skiing. Snowshoers, telemark skiers, and skate skiers can also enjoy the monument. Snowmobiling is not permitted. Snow conditions vary greatly from year to year. Call the monument for current road and skiing conditions.

Bicycle Riding

Bicycles are an enjoyable way to explore Craters of the Moon. You may ride the 7-mile Loop Drive, or venture onto dirt roads in the section of the monument north of Highway 20/26/93. A free permit, available at the visitor center, is required for all bike travel north of the highway. Bicycles are not allowed on hiking trails or off-road.

Pets

Pets are allowed at Craters of the Moon, but must be kept on a leash at all times. Dogs (with the exception of seeing-eye dogs) and other pets are not allowed in the visitor center or on hiking trails. Please do not leave pets unattended.

Cooperating Association

The Craters of the Moon Natural History Association sells books, postcards, posters, maps, videos, and other items in the visitor center. Proceeds are used to support the National Park Service in its educational and scientific activities. A publications list is available upon request. Mail orders are accepted.

Hazards

The lava is extremely sharp and abrasive. Wear sturdy shoes and watch your step. The summer months are dry, hot and windy. Carry drinking water if you plan to be out for more than an hour. A reliable source of artificial light is needed for all caves.

Getting There

There is no public transportation to the monument. The nearest airports with commercial service are in Idaho Falls (87 miles), Twin Falls (101 miles), and Hailey (67 miles).

