

What Is Crater Lake?

- Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States, one of the deepest in the world at 1,943 feet.
- It was formed about 7,700 years ago after the violent eruption and collapse of Mount Mazama, a volcano in the Cascade Range.
- The lake is known for its vivid blue color and remarkable clarity, due to its lack of inlets—the water comes only from rain and snow.

Crater Lake National Park:

- Established in 1902, it's Oregon's only national park.
- Covers over 183,000 acres of forest, peaks, and high desert.
- Popular features:
 - Rim Drive: A 33-mile scenic loop around the lake with over 30 overlooks.
 - Wizard Island: A volcanic cinder cone island that you can visit by boat.
 - Phantom Ship: A natural rock formation resembling a ghostly ship.
 - Cleetwood Cove Trail: The only trail that leads down to the lake for swimming or boat access.
 - **Crater Lake Lodge: A historic hotel on the rim offering spectacular views.**

Top Attractions:

- Rim Drive: 33-mile scenic drive with 30+ overlooks.
- Wizard Island: Volcanic island accessible via boat tours.
- Phantom Ship: Rock formation resembling a ghost ship.
- Cleetwood Cove Trail: Only trail down to the lake.

Hiking Trails:

- Cleetwood Cove Trail (1.1 miles down): Access to lake.
- Garfield Peak (3.4 miles RT): Stunning views from the rim.
- Watchman Peak (1.6 miles RT): Great for sunset views.
- Mount Scott (4.4 miles RT): Highest point in the park.

Lodging & Camping:

- Crater Lake Lodge: Historic lodge, open late May to mid-October.
- Mazama Village Campground: Reservations recommended.
- Lost Creek Campground: Tent-only, first-come-first-served.

Park Hours, Fees, & Seasons:

- Open year-round, but many roads/trails close in winter.
- Entrance Fee: \$30/vehicle (valid 7 days), or use an America the Beautiful Pass.
- Visitor Centers: Steel Visitor Center (open in winter), Rim Village (summer).

Park Overview:

Crater Lake National Park covers 183,000 acres.

Features volcanic peaks, old-growth forest, Rim Drive, and hiking areas.

Main entrances: South (OR-62), North (seasonal), West (seasonal).