







-  Loop road
-  Trail
-  Wheelchair-accessible trail
-  Point of interest
-  Restrooms
-  Picnic area
-  Campground



The 750,000-acre Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve boundary and the Great Rift show in this satellite view. The many miles of undeveloped, rugged dirt and gravel roads in the surrounding area warrant a high-clearance, four-wheel-drive vehicle with good tires. For more information ask at the visitor center or the Bureau of Land Management Shoshone Field Office (see below).

Exploring Craters of the Moon by the Loop Road

The scenic 7-mile loop road provides access to trails that take you over, under, and around the various volcanic features. Trail mileages are one-way distances. Allow a half-hour for the drive itself and more time for stopping at viewpoints and for hiking the trails.

1 Visitor Center Begin here with films, exhibits, and the schedule of ranger-led walks and evening programs. The Craters of the Moon Natural History Association bookstore is in the visitor center.

2 North Crater Flow A 0.3-mile trail crosses one of the youngest flows to monoliths, crater fragments rafted here by lava flows. Nearby, a 1.8-mile trail winds through the vent of North Crater and exits at the Spatter Cones/Big Craters parking lot.

3 Devils Orchard Island-like lava fragments stand in a sea of cinders. Take the spur road and short walk (0.5-mile, accessible) through these weird features. Learn about human impacts on the park and how the park is being protected today.

4 Inferno Cone From atop this cone (a short, steep 0.2-mile walk) you see cinder cones lined up along the Great Rift. Big Cinder Butte, towering above the lava plain to the south, is one of the world's largest basaltic cinder cones.

5 Spatter Cones and Big Craters Area A short, wheelchair-accessible trail leads to these miniature volcanoes. You can view the spectacular Big Craters by hiking a steep 0.25-mile part of the North Crater trail that branches off to the west.

6 Trails to Tree Molds, Broken Top, and Wilderness A spur road after stop 5 leads to this trailhead. View the imprint of lava-charred trees along the 1-mile Tree Molds Trail. Broken Top Trail (self-guiding) goes around a cinder cone (1.8 miles). The Wilderness Trail leads to molds of upright trees called lava trees (2 miles) and the wilderness area beyond.

7 Cave Area See lava tubes—Dewdrop, Boy Scout, Beauty, and Indian Tunnel—via a 0.8-mile trail across the lava. **Obtain a permit, carry a flashlight, and wear sturdy, close-toed shoes before entering any cave. Warning:** Exploring these natural, wild caves can be dangerous. Stay out of the hazardous sections marked with signs or barriers.