

# CRATER LAKE



Located in southern Oregon, Crater Lake National Park is part of the Cascade Range. 7,700 years ago, a massive volcanic eruption left a deep basin where the summit of Mount Mazama once stood. Centuries of rain and snow filled the caldera, forming a lake of unrivalled color and clarity. At 592 metres, it is the deepest lake in the United States.

# WHAT TO DO

## RIM DRIVE ★★★

This 53-kilometer scenic drive takes you all the way around the lake. It's an excellent way to discover the various viewpoints (30 stops in all) on this marvel. It takes around 2 hours, including the many stops, to complete the tour.

In summer, there is also a fee-paying trolley system for travelers who wish to leave the car or camper behind to cover this route. Reservations are recommended.

This route closes at the beginning of November and only opens when the snow melts. The exact date varies from year to year, but access is generally permitted towards the end of May.

Many hikes offer spectacular views of the lake, but it's worth noting that viewpoints accessible by car offer just as many.

## WATCHMAN OVERLOOK ★★

This is one of the most impressive views of the lake and Wizard Island. You'll also find the start of a short 2.6-kilometre moderate hike at this viewpoint.

## WIZARD ISLAND ★

This small volcanic island is only accessible by boat, booking a guided tour. The only access to the lake is via the Cleetwood Cove Trail. It's important to note that this is a challenging walk, despite its 1.7 kilometers (3.4 round trips). The trail descends 213 meters in altitude with a series of steep switchbacks. It is not recommended for people with mobility or health problems.

## PARC NATIONAL CRATER LAKE ★★★

**Season :** Open year-round, 24 hours a day. Note that the North Entrance and Rim Drive are closed from November to the end of April (May, June and October are unpredictable, so opening may vary depending on weather).

**Visitor centers:**

- Rim Village Visitor Center.
- Steel Information Center.

**Shuttle service inside the park?** No.

## NEARBY

### KLAMATH FALLS ★

Upper Klamath Lake is the largest freshwater lake west of the Rocky Mountains. Many activities such as kayaking and migratory bird watching are possible just 30 minutes north. Crater Lake Zipline is also an experience not to be missed if you're looking for a good dose of adrenalin, with its series of 9 zip lines. Downtown Klamath Falls is full of small cafés, restaurants and local stores.



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KLAMATH FALLS



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WIZARD ISLAND