

Crater Lake National Park and the Central Cascades
August 19, 2023 – August 29, 2023 (trip# 2335)



Three Sisters Volcanoes

Photo Credit: USGS Photograph by Lyn Topinka.

Trip Overview

The Cascades Range is Oregon's most prominent mountain range stretching 217 miles and is composed mostly of volcanic mountains with seven designated National Forests. The High Cascades is a sub-province of the Cascades Range, dominating Oregon's skyline where you will find the state's tallest peaks and six active volcanoes. After arriving in Eugene, we will base our adventure in two distinct areas along the Cascade Range, Crater Lake National Park at the southern end of the range, and the city of Bend, located at the foothills of the Central Cascades

where the mountains meet the desert. Together, these two vantage points offer a diverse selection of hiking experiences and majestic vistas.

After meeting and lodging at a local hotel in Eugene Oregon, we will spend three days in Crater Lake National Park, Oregon's only National Park and home of the deepest lake in North America and one of the clearest in the world. Crater Lake is a place of immeasurable beauty. No place else on earth combines a deep, pure lake, so blue in color; featuring sheer surrounding cliffs almost two thousand feet high; two picturesque islands; and a violent volcanic past. While in Crater Lake National Park we will spend two nights at the historic Crater Lake Lodge exploring the park by foot, car, and boat. Our hikes will be up to 6,000- 9,000 feet elevation, allowing us to acclimate for our hikes in the Deschutes National Forest outside of Bend later in the week. From here we will travel north by car to Bend, which will be our base area of adventure for the next six days.

Known for both its outdoor pursuits and pristine beauty, Bend is dubbed "The Outdoor Playground of the West". We will witness the contrasting terrain of landscapes covered by lava beds, meadows filled with wildflowers and majestic snow-capped peaks creating the high desert skyline. While in Bend we will hike in three unique areas: Deschutes National Forest (Three Sisters Wilderness and Willamette National Forest), Smith Rock State Park, and Newberry National Volcanic Monument. We will learn about the geology of the area's past volcanic eruptions. Our hike itinerary will include summiting high peaks, meandering through valleys and meadows, and exploring remnants of past volcanic activities including craters and caves, all within an hour's drive of our accommodations.

Trip Attributes

Difficulty: This trip is rated [5-6 - vigorous to strenuous](#). On a typical day we will hike five to seven hours per day (excluding breaks), between 5 and 11 miles, with elevation gains of 1,200-1,600 feet at an elevation that most of us will not be used to. We will potentially do one hike with 5,000 feet of elevation gain that will be dependent on permit availability. The terrain is rugged and steep in places requiring agility and stamina. There will be sections on narrow trails with steep drop-offs. We will hike at a moderate pace, permitting time for photos and rest breaks. Participants should be in excellent shape and able to hike for several hours each day while carrying a daypack.

Accommodations and meals: The accommodations include a two-night stay at a historical lodge. The remaining nights are in hotels (two nights in Eugene and six nights in Bend). Accommodations during the trip will be two persons per room. The trip price includes most breakfasts and dinners indicated in the daily itinerary. Participants will purchase all lunches and trail snacks.

Weather: The weather in August is typically dry with average temperatures in the high 60's at the high elevations (i.e., Crater Lake and High Cascades) and in the mid 80's at lower elevations (i.e., Bend).

Trip Details

The itinerary below describes our daily plans. Meals are included as indicated: B = breakfast, D = dinner. Time is hiking time only, excluding breaks. Elevation gain is listed in feet.

Day 1 [Saturday August 19] Arrive in Eugene Oregon - Trip begins: meetup and group dinner with an overnight stay at a local hotel. Eugene is the third largest city in Oregon. Noted for its cultural and recreational opportunities its official slogan is "A Great City for the Arts and Outdoors". (D)

Day 2 [Sunday August 20] We will arise early and drive the scenic 2.5 hours to Crater Lake National Park potentially making a stop along the way. Once in Crater Lake National Park we will grab some lunch and spend the afternoon hiking the Rim trail, taking in many different views of the lake before checking into [Crater Lake Lodge](#). We will summit the Watchman, Discovery Point and 8,054 ft Garfield Peak, the highest point on Crater Lake, all while enjoying spectacular views of CraterLake. Hike totals today are up to 8.2 miles with 1,600 feet of elevation gain. (B, D)



Crater Lake from Mount Scott Summit

Photo Credit: Dan Stone

Day 3 [Monday August 21] We will spend a full day exploring Crater Lake by car, boat, and boot. We will drive around the lake and hike from crater rim to Cleetwood Cove on the lakefront and take a boat cruise on Crater Lake. We will have the opportunity to spend 3 hours on Wizard Island exploring a volcanic island inside a collapsed volcano. This will include a hike to Fumarole Bay where house-sized lava boulders dot an emerald lakeshore and to the 6,933-foot summit for a 360-degree panorama of Crater Lake's spectacular caldera. Hike totals for today are 6 miles with 1,610 feet of elevation gain. (D)



Wizard Island

Photo Credit: Dan Stone

Day 4 [Tuesday August 22] We will check out of the lodge after breakfast and hike to Mount Scott, which at 8,934 feet is the tallest peak in Crater Lake National Park and supposedly the only spot in which the entire lake can be captured in a normal camera lens. After the hike we drive to Bend (1:40 hours) where we will have dinner and settle for the next 6 days. Hike totals today are 5 miles with 1,250 feet of elevation gain. (D)



Mount Scott

Photo Credit: Dan Stone

Day 5 [Wednesday August 23] Tumalo Falls is a 97 foot waterfall on Tumalo Creek, in the Cascade range just outside of Bend. We will take a short drive from Bend to Tumalo Falls where we get our first glimpse of the Three Sisters Wilderness area in the Deschutes National Forest. Here we will hike a loop route meandering along Tumalo Creek, passing by Double Falls and countless smaller waterfalls. Hike totals today are 7.2 miles with 1,128 feet of elevation gain. (B)

Day 6 [Thursday August 24] South Sister is the third tallest mountain in Oregon at 10,363 feet and lies adjacent to its two sister peaks (Middle and North Sister) in the Three Sisters Wilderness area of Deschutes National Forest. We will arise early to attempt this demanding yet rewarding hike where we will pass beautiful Moraine Lake and a pair of glaciers before arriving at South Sister Peak. On a clear day you can see half the state of Oregon, and the summit crater holds Teardrop Pool, the state's highest lake. We'll hike 11 miles with 4,900 feet of elevation gain. Note this hike is subject to change as it is dependent on permit availability. (B, D)



Trail to South Sister

Photo Credit: Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region licensed under CC PDM 1.0.

Day 7 [Friday August 25] Just south of Bend is the 54,000 acre Newberry National Volcanic Monument featuring lakes, lava flows, and spectacular geologic features. We will hike the highest point within the Monument, Paulina Peak at 7,985 feet, and enjoy views of the Cascades, the Newberry Caldera and the High Desert. On the way back to Bend we will visit the Lava Lands Visitor Center for a half-day of education and exploration of Lava Butte (short hike up summit to view into crater), Lava River Cave (mile long hike into its depths with only light via hand-held lantern) and Lava Cast Forest (remnants of lava flows). Today involves about 8 miles of hiking with approximately 1,200 feet of elevation gain. (B, D)

Day 8 [Saturday August 26] Nestled in Central Oregon's high desert is Smith Rock State Park. Formed over 30 million years ago by a series of volcanic eruptions, the park features deep canyons, majestic cliffs, and towering rock spires. Although famous for its rock climbing, the park offers several hiking opportunities. We will hike the Summit Loop and/or potentially Misery Ridge Trail, where we will transition from the river bottom and its unique ecosystem to a forested area on the backside of high desert plains with wonderful overlooks along the Monument Ridge. Hike stats for the day are 7.2 miles and 1,186 feet of elevation gain. (B)



Smith Rock

Photo Credit: Ken Kitching on Unsplash

Day 9 [Sunday August 27] After spending the previous day on rugged terrain in the high desert, today we will drive back into the lush Deschutes NF and hike the scenic Green Lakes Trail for a total of 9.6 miles and 1,150 feet of elevation gain. The trail leads up Fall Creek to the namesake lakes offering incredible views of both South Sister and Broken Top. Depending on how the group is doing we may combine with the Soda Creek Trail adding two miles and 500 feet of elevation gain. Note this hike is subject to change as it is dependent on permit availability. (B, D)



Green Lakes Trail – Broken Top

Photo Credit: J K Amero licensed under CC PDM 1.0

Day 10 [Monday August 28] Today we will pack up and head back to Eugene. Enroute we will stop at the 5,325-foot McKenzie Pass. In 1935, the CCC built Dee Wright Observatory at the pass, made entirely out of lava stone. From here, you can view a 65-square-mile lava flow and many peaks of the Cascades. We then will hike past Benson Lake to Scott Mountain or a similar hike. At the 6116-foot summit we'll get a good look at the Mount Washington Wilderness, a land wrought with massive lava flows. So much of the preserve is covered by lava (about seventy-five square miles) that it is often called the "Black Wilderness." We'll hike 8.2 miles with 1,300 feet of elevation gain. Once in Eugene we will check into our hotel and have our farewell dinner. Note this hike is subject to change as it is dependent on permit availability. (B, D)

Day 11 [Tuesday August 29] Departure (B)

Participant Profile and Expectations

You should have a keen interest in adventure and enjoy moderate - strenuous hiking on varied, sometimes rugged terrain with long days and moderate to significant elevation gains (Please refer back to the Difficulty section and the Daily Itinerary descriptions). You need to be prepared to commit yourself to keeping in shape between the time you sign up for this trip to the time you arrive.

You should recognize that you may find yourself in closer quarters or be less comfortable than you are used to at home. You should make it a priority to help others on the trip and contribute to their having a great time. If you do that, you will have a great time.

We will be hiking for 9 days. Some days will be lengthy with significant elevation gains; others will be shorter and easier. You should have at least intermediate to advanced hiking skills and be able to hike at least 11 miles every day, with moderate elevation gains, while carrying everything you need to keep you safe in the event of bad weather or injury.

While the itinerary in this prospectus is what the leaders have planned at the time of writing, various factors may require changes for reasons of safety, transportation or lodging availability, wilderness permit availability, and unforeseeable circumstances (such as weather considerations, natural disasters in areas to be visited, or recommendations of governmental agencies). We have identified several back-up hikes that we can do if unable to secure the necessary permits. We will do our best to provide a rewarding experience for all. **The leaders reserve the right to make such changes as necessary, both before and during the trip. Participants are expected to show their sense of adventure and 'go with the flow' if changes need to be made.**

Trip Price

The trip price is \$3,350 for AMC members and \$3,450 for non-members. To join the AMC and get the lower price, (2022 membership pricing \$50 individual, \$75 family) click [here](#). This will cover the following items:

- Lodging, most breakfasts and most dinners
- All in-trip transportation
- Entrance fees to all sites
- Emergency medical and evacuation insurance coverage

All lunches, breakfast in Crater Lake National Park, trail snacks, beverages (e.g. coffee/tea, mineral water, alcohol, etc) and other personal expenses are NOT included. Your transportation to and from Eugene is your responsibility. The trip leaders will advise you as much as you need and will facilitate group travel. At this time, we estimate that the price for a round trip air ticket between the east coast and Eugene will be \$900 to \$1,000.

The final trip cost may be adjusted in accordance with the best final arrangements we can make. Any savings we achieve, as well as any cost increases, will be passed back to you. Our cost estimates are conservative, and so a refund is considerably more likely than a price increase.

AMC Adventure Travel trips are run on a non-profit basis. Leaders are volunteers who are not compensated except for their travel costs associated with the trip. The advertised trip cost includes a surcharge which goes toward the administrative expenses of the AMC Adventure Travel program.

The trip fee includes emergency medical and evacuation insurance coverage, which is required by the AMC. It does *not* include insurance for travel delay, interruption, or cancellation, or for baggage loss. If the possibility of such problems concerns you, individual travel insurance is suggested. Should your application be accepted, we will supply you with the necessary materials to evaluate trip cancellation and interruption insurance provided by the AMC preferred vendor. You may choose any insurance vendor for such means.

Terms and Conditions

Information regarding the AMC Adventure Travel Terms and Conditions and items listed below can be found at [Adventure Travel Terms and Conditions](#).

- Cancellation Policy
- Leaders' Right to Change Itinerary
- Leaders' Expectations of Participants
- Trip Price
- Passports and Travel Documents
- Safety
- AMC Activity Rating System

Registration

Due to permit requirements in many of the areas we plan to hike we are required to limit the group size to 12. As such, we anticipate a group size of 10 participants and 2 leaders.

To Apply:

1. Complete and submit the online application:

Link: [Crater NP and Central Cascades Application](#)

2. Mail the registration deposit of \$1,000 (payable to Appalachian Mountain Club) to:

Larry Yetter

277 E Dunstable Rd

Nashua, NH 03062

You will only be accepted onto the trip after the leaders have determined by telephone conversation with you that the trip is a good match. The final balance is due May 1, 2023. Deposit checks from waitlisted applicants will not be cashed until they join the trip.

Questions

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Larry or Ann. Larry can be reached at 713 724-2856 before 9PM Eastern Time or at yetter95@gmail.com. Ann can be reached at 860 395-9385 before 9PM Eastern Time or at anndboland@gmail.com

Trip Leaders



Larry Yetter is an active AMC leader with Adventure Travel and NH Excursions (Hiking) committee. He leads hikes in New England throughout all four seasons and is the Director of the AMC NH Winter Hiking Series. He has lived in four countries outside the US and visited over 40 others located on all seven continents. He has led Adventure travel trips to Switzerland, Southwest US and Smoky Mountains with several trips planned for late 2022. He looks forward to exploring this

unique area with the participants on this trip.



Ann Boland is a four-season hike leader with the AMC NH chapter. She is an instructor for the AMC-NH Winter Hiking Series, an Information Volunteer at AMC lodges and huts, and maintains trails in the White Mountain National Forest. She is an avid hiker and has summited the NH48 4ks in each of the four seasons and the NE67 4ks. Ann also enjoys hiking outside of New England and has organized family trekking trips to Switzerland, Italy, New Zealand, and Nepal, as well as several national parks in the United States. When not hiking she can be found running, cycling, or kayaking, and, in the winter, Nordic skiing. Ann is WFA and CPR

certified.