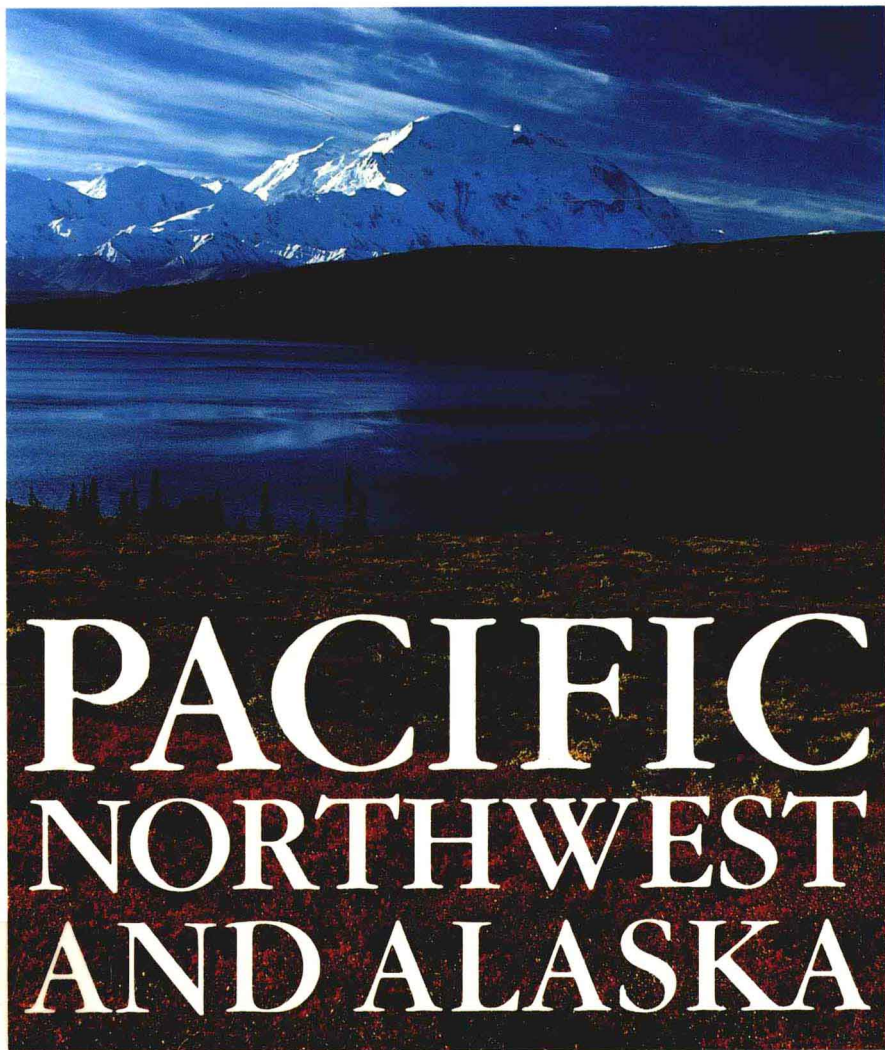


THE SIERRA CLUB GUIDES TO THE NATIONAL PARKS



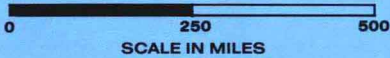
PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND ALASKA

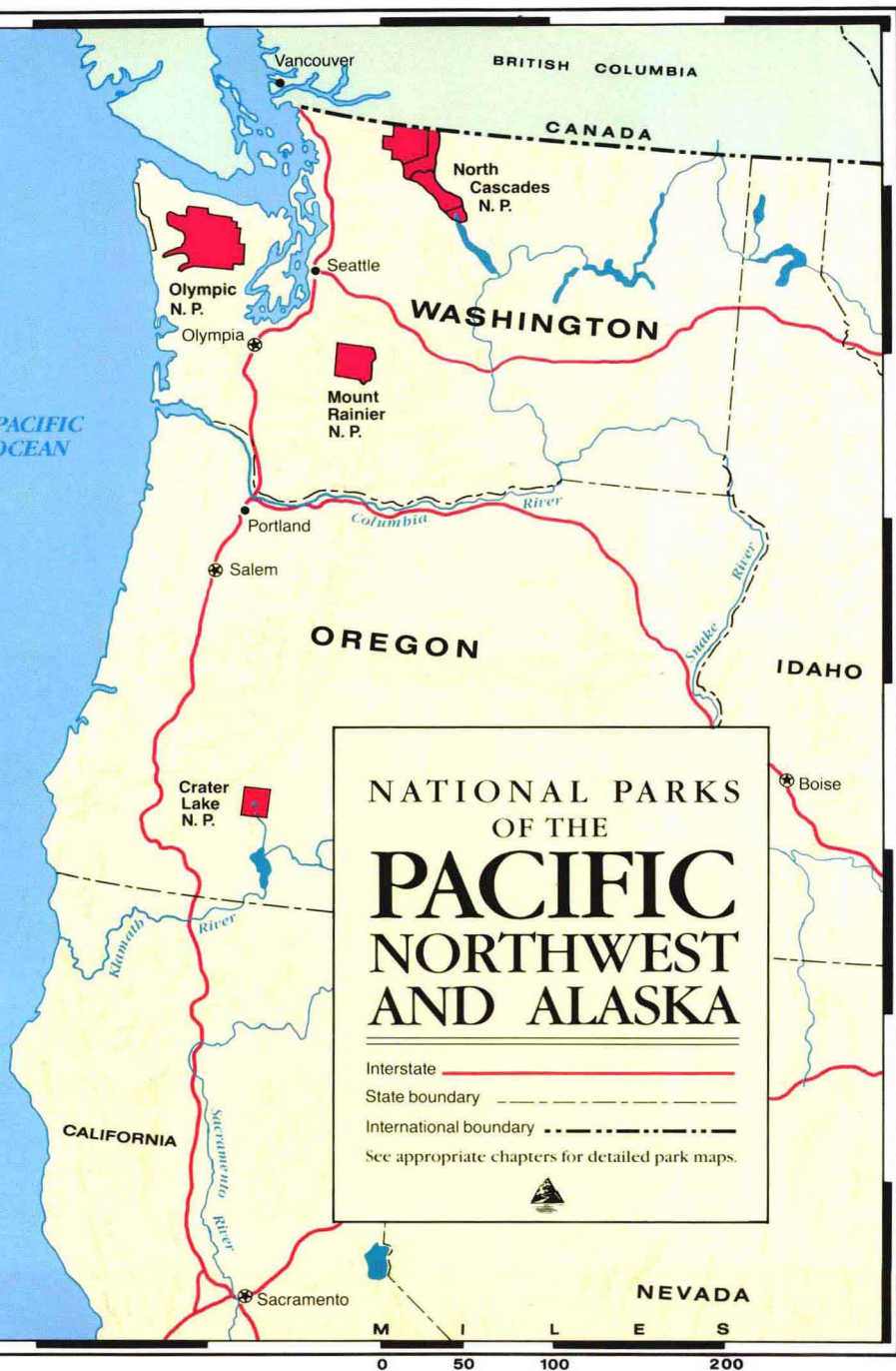
CRATER LAKE DENALI GATES OF THE ARCTIC GLACIER BAY

KATMAI KENAI FJORDS KOBUK VALLEY LAKE CLARK

MOUNT RAINIER NORTH CASCADES OLYMPIC WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS









THE SIERRA CLUB GUIDES
TO THE
NATIONAL PARKS
OF THE
**PACIFIC
NORTHWEST
AND ALASKA**

Published by
Stewart, Tabori & Chang

Distributed by

R A N D O M H O U S E

Front cover: Mount McKinley, Denali National Park and Preserve
(© John Johnson/DRK)

Frontispiece: Caribou at Wonder Lake, Denali National Park and Preserve
(© Mike Tollefson)

Back cover: Wizard Island, Crater Lake National Park
(© Pat O'Hara)

Text by:

Robert Belous—Glacier Bay, Kenai Fjords, Kobuk Valley, and Wrangell—St. Elias
Barbara B. Decker and Robert W. Decker—Crater Lake and Mount Rainier
Kim Heacox—Denali, North Cascades, and Olympic
John Kauffmann—Gates of the Arctic
Susan Tollefson—Katmai and Lake Clark

Consulting Editor: James V. Murfin

Project Editor: Donald Young

Designer: J.C. Suarès

Photo Editor: Amla Sanghvi

Illustrations and maps ©Bill Russell

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Main entry under title:

The Sierra Club guides to the national parks of the
Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

Includes index.

1. National parks and reserves—Northwest, Pacific—Guide-books.
 2. National parks and reserves—Alaska—Guide-books.
 3. Northwest, Pacific—Description and travel—1981— —Guide-books
 4. Alaska—Description and travel—1981— —Guide-books.
- I. Belous, Robert.
II. Sierra Club.

F852.3.S54 1985 917.95'0443 84-23971
ISBN 0-394-73554-4 (Random House)

Created and published by Stewart, Tabori & Chang, Inc.

Text pp. 15-43, 47-77, 81-99, 103-129, 133-163, 167-183, 187-207,
211-243, 247-277, 281-309, 315-351, 355-381
copyright © 1985 Stewart, Tabori & Chang, Inc.
740 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Photo credits are on pp. 392-393.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced by any means
without the written permission of the publisher.

Distributed by Random House, Inc.
201 East 50 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022.

Printed and bound in Japan.

THIS COUNTRY'S FORTY-EIGHT NATIONAL PARKS CONTAIN natural wonders more varied and extraordinary than those found in any other nation on earth. Embodied and preserved in them is the beauty of a vast land, which only a few centuries ago was wilderness. Every year, 50 million people visit these parks, testifying to a deep appreciation of the treasures they offer.

Recognizing the need for park guide books that are practical as well as beautiful, Stewart, Tabori & Chang is proud to present *The Sierra Club Guides to the National Parks*. These books have been created with the cooperation of the Sierra Club, which has been committed to conservation since 1892, and with the participation of the National Park Service and Random House. The five regional guides planned for the series—the Desert Southwest, the Pacific Southwest and Hawaii, the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains, the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, and the East and Middle West—take you through each of the national parks of the United States.

Leading nature writers and photographers, experts in their fields, have provided text and photographs that work together as a tour of the parks. One chapter is devoted to each park, beginning with its discovery and use by man, moving on to its natural and geological history, its animal and plant life, and finally exploring its sites, trails, and trips. Each chapter also includes an up-to-date facilities chart, trail guides, and park and trail maps created especially for the book. An extensive full-color appendix of the most commonly seen animals and plants is included at the end of each book.

THE ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS CONSERVATION ACT OF 1980

CONGRESS IN 1980 PASSED THE ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), creating a gift for all the American people—100 million acres of new parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, and national forests, almost all in pristine condition. Overnight, the national-park and wildlife systems more than doubled in size.

Until Alaska became a state, 99 percent of it was owned by the federal government. The 1959 statehood bill provided that 104.6 million acres (of a total of 375 million) would be transferred to the state. Alaska's Inuits (Eskimos), Aleuts, and Indians pressed their own claims. Congress in 1971 approved the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), which gave the Natives 44 million acres and \$962.5 million. In 1967, Sierra Club president Edgar Wayburn had persuaded the club to make the preservation of Alaska's wild lands a top priority. His lobbying paid off with the inclusion in ANCSA of a clause that authorized the Secretary of the Interior to study up to 80 million acres suitable for addition to, or creation as, units of the four national systems. Congress had to implement the clause by 1978.

A nine-year struggle ensued. The Sierra Club and other conservation organizations formed the Alaska Coalition, which utilized professional lobbying and grass-roots efforts. Alaskan politicians and mining and forest-industry companies sought to block or weaken a parks bill. Conservationists and employees of the Interior Department trudged through primeval Alaska, evaluating areas for preservation. A strong bill that went beyond recommendations by Interior passed twice in the House of Representatives, but senators favoring a weaker bill delayed action in the Senate. In December 1978, with the statutory limit of the 1971 act about to expire, Jimmy Carter used emergency authority to create national monuments by presidential proclamation. With Ronald Reagan's election in 1980, conservationists concluded that the prospect of getting any bill passed after his inauguration was dim. During a "lame duck" session of Congress, they accepted a compromise Senate bill. Carter signed ANILCA on December 2, 1980.

—Donald Young

AN ALASKAN PERSPECTIVE

ALASKA'S NATIONAL PARKS CONTAIN 39 MILLION ACRES. These vast realms challenge visitors to adjust their expectations and perspective and are a distinct departure from their counterparts elsewhere.

Generally, park areas can be classified into three settings. (1) In the remote bush country, visitors are on their own. Support facilities are absent, and the weather and terrain pose difficult challenges. Trails and a refined catalog of resources are nonexistent. (2) Intermediate areas—equivalent to wilderness parklands in other states—offer some visitor aids and a degree of resource interpretation. Basic visitor facilities are available, usually at or near a headquarters site. (3) Long-established units, such as Denali, provide services and accommodations that are comparable to those found at other national parks. Resource interpretation can enrich short visits. But such parks also contain wild terrain beyond the core area of visitor facilities.

Thousands of acres of private or state lands lie within Alaska's parks. Mining claims exist in remote settings. Visitors should ask about land status, or "inner boundaries," before selecting routes, campsites, and destinations. Native allotments—often situated along rivers or lakes or near caribou migration routes—constitute a special class of private land. Allotment lands represent special ties between Natives and their homelands. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (1980) allows local Native and non-Native people to hunt, fish, trap, and gather subsistence resources in park areas that they used in the past. Tent frames and fish racks may be unattended, but they will be used during the next seasonal round of harvest activity. Disturbing equipment or interfering with hunting or fishing are serious forms of trespass.

Information in the "Sites, Trails, and Trips" sections of this book is necessarily spare. In these young and vast parklands, biotic systems are only vaguely understood. Natural features have not been reduced to the trail-guide format common to many parks. Indeed, the National Park Service seeks to preserve the challenge and character of these last wild places. The conservationist Aldo Leopold asked, "Of what avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map?" The absence of complete data is not intended to dissuade visitors, but to preserve an opportunity for discovery, self-reliance, and deep adventure.

—*Robert Belous*

M A P S

MAP OF THE NATIONAL PARKS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND ALASKA 2-3

Crater Lake
PARK MAP 16-17

Denali
PARK MAP 48-49
RILEY CREEK TRAIL MAP 75

Gates of the Arctic
PARK MAP 82-83

Glacier Bay
PARK MAP 104-105

Katmai
PARK MAP 134-135

Kenai Fjords
PARK MAP 168-169

Kobuk Valley
PARK MAP 188-189

Lake Clark
PARK MAP 212-213

Mount Rainier
PARK MAP 248-249
PARADISE AREA TRAIL MAP 274

North Cascades
PARK MAP 282-283

Olympic
PARK MAP 316-317

Wrangell-St. Elias
PARK MAP 356-357

C O N T E N T S

Crater Lake

12



Mount Rainier

244

Denali

44

North Cascades

278

Gates of the Arctic

78



Olympic

312

Glacier Bay

100



Wrangell–St. Elias

352

Katmai

130



APPENDIX OF
PLANTS & ANIMALS

383

Kenai Fjords

164

Kobuk Valley

184

PHOTO CREDITS

392

Lake Clark

208

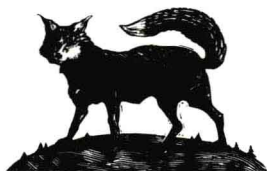


INDEX

394



CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK



The view of Wizard Island from Watchman Peak, which is on the rim of Crater Lake.

CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK
P.O. BOX 7, CRATER LAKE, OREGON 97604
TEL.: (503) 594-2211

Highlights: Rim Drive □ Crater Lake □ Pumice Desert □ Wizard Island □ Discovery Point □ The Watchman □ Devil's Backbone □ Llao Rock □ Vidae Falls □ The Pinnacles □ Mount Scott

Access: From west and south, take Oregon 62. Crater Lake access road open all winter, weather permitting. Oregon 138 to North Entrance, open mid-June to mid-October.

Hours: Winter, till dusk. Summer, noon to midnight.

Fees: Entrance, \$2/vehicle, 50¢/person on bus. Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access passes accepted. Camping, \$6/night.

Parking: Available at Rim Village.

Gas: Near park headquarters. Open Memorial Day to mid-October.

Food: Crater Lake Lodge dining room (summer only) and cafeteria.

Lodging: In park at Crater Lake Lodge, from mid-June to early September.

Visitor Center: Rim Village Visitor Center. Weather updates, naturalist talks; books and maps for sale; trip planning assistance and backcountry permits.

Museums: Exhibits at park headquarters, Visitor Center, and Sinnott Memorial.

Gift shop: At cafeteria in Rim Village.

Pets: Permitted on short leashes, except on trails or indoors.

Picnicking: At designated sites.

Hiking: Winter, ranger-guided snowshoe hike near lake rim; group hikes arranged through park headquarters. Summer, 140 miles of trails.

Backpacking: Throughout park; permit required.

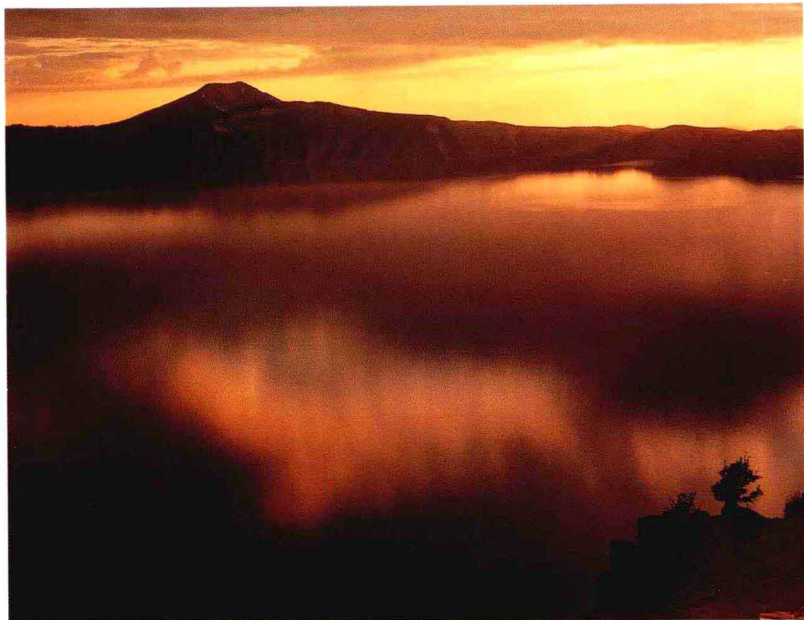
Campgrounds: Mazama Campground, 198 sites for tents or campers; Lost Creek Campground, 12 sites for tents only, open in late July. First-come availability. \$6/unit. Firewood for sale. Fires only in fireplaces.

Tours: Bus and boat tours when weather permits.

Other activities: Geology talks hourly, from June to early September, at Sinnott Memorial Overlook. Horses permitted on many backcountry trails.

Facilities for disabled: Scripts of talks available for hearing impaired. Most facilities, viewpoints, and some restrooms accessible to wheelchairs.

For additional information, see also Sites, Trails, and Trips on pages 35–43 and the map on pages 16–17.



Sunrise over the caldera; Mount Scott stands on the horizon.

A MORE DRAMATIC SETTING WOULD BE HARD TO imagine: a magnificent blue lake, 6 miles across, cradled in the shattered top of an 8,000-foot volcano. Steep, jagged cliffs surround the lake, rising as high as 2,000 feet above placid waters that are more intensely blue than the Oregon sky on a clear day.

The result of an enormous volcanic eruption that occurred almost 7,000 years ago, this lovely lake in the crown of Mount Mazama is the central feature of Crater Lake National Park, situated along the crest of the Cascade Range in southern Oregon. Crater Lake is famous for its depth as well as for its surpassing beauty: at 1,932 feet, it is the deepest lake in the United States and the seventh deepest in the world.

Elevations in the park vary from 4,400 feet at the south entrance to 8,926 feet at Mount Scott, a volcanic cone east of the lake. Most of the landscape is clothed in deep conifer forests, but in the summertime wildflowers bloom lavishly in a headlong rush to outrace the early fall snows. Almost 600 plant species have been identified in Crater Lake National Park, and all have colonized there since the area was devastated by the volcanic eruption.

A 33-mile rim road circling the lake provides splendid panoramic

