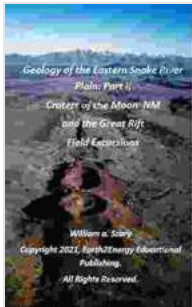


# Craters of the Moon National Monument: Embark on a Journey to a Lunar Landscape



## Geology of the Eastern Snake River Plain: Part II: Craters of the Moon National Monument and the Great Rift Field Excursions by William Szary

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Nestled amidst the vast expanse of Idaho's high desert, Craters of the Moon National Monument beckons travelers to experience a realm of extraordinary geological formations and volcanic wonders. As you venture into this unique protected area, prepare to be captivated by a landscape that resembles the surface of the moon.

### Delving into a Volcanic Masterpiece

Craters of the Moon is a testament to the Earth's dynamic geological processes. Over thousands of years, a series of massive volcanic eruptions have sculpted a surreal landscape that showcases a diverse array of lava flows, cinder cones, and other volcanic features. As you explore this geological playground, you'll encounter:

- **Lava Flows:** Marvel at the intricate patterns and textures of the lava flows that have shaped the park's terrain. Explore the trails that traverse these solidified rivers of molten rock, admiring the smooth pahoehoe flows and the rugged aa flows.
- **Cinder Cones:** Witness the remnants of explosive eruptions that formed these steep, conical hills. Ascend to the summits of these cinder cones for breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding lunar-like landscape.
- **Spatter Cones:** Discover the fascinating structures formed by the ejection of molten lava fragments. These smaller cones, often grouped together, add a unique touch to the park's volcanic tapestry.
- **Tree Molds:** Step into the past by exploring the areas where molten lava once engulfed forests. As the lava cooled and solidified, it left behind hollow molds of the trees that once stood there.

## Exploring the Great Rift

Within Craters of the Moon, the Great Rift stands as a geological marvel. Stretching for over 8 miles, this immense fissure in the Earth's crust offers a glimpse into the planet's volcanic underpinnings. As you venture along the rift's edge, you'll observe:

- **Sheer Cliffs:** Gaze up at the towering cliffs that form the rift's walls, revealing layers of ancient lava flows and volcanic ash.
- **Collapsed Lava Tubes:** Explore the sunken sections of the rift where the roofs of lava tubes have caved in, creating a series of intriguing caves and tunnels.

- **Snaking Lava Flows:** Trace the path of ancient lava flows that have solidified within the rift, forming intricate patterns on the landscape.
- **Volcanic Bombs:** Discover the remnants of volcanic explosions that hurled molten rock fragments into the air. These frozen projectiles, known as volcanic bombs, can be found scattered throughout the rift area.

## **Unveiling the Secrets with Field Excursions**

To fully immerse yourself in the wonders of Craters of the Moon, embark on a guided field excursion. Led by experienced geologists, these excursions provide an in-depth exploration of the park's diverse volcanic features and geological history.

### **Ranger-Led Excursions**

Join a ranger-led excursion to learn about the park's formation, volcanic activity, and the unique plants and animals that inhabit this harsh environment. These excursions offer a comprehensive overview of Craters of the Moon's natural and cultural history.

### **Backcountry Hiking Excursions**

For a more adventurous experience, venture into the park's backcountry on a guided hiking excursion. Trek along rugged trails, climb to the summits of cinder cones, and explore hidden lava caves. Discover the park's remote and pristine areas, immersing yourself in its volcanic wonders.

## **Immerse Yourself in Volcanic History**

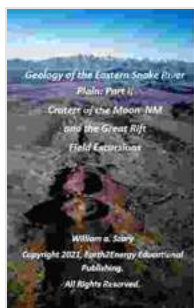
Craters of the Moon National Monument offers a captivating immersion into the world of volcanism. Its unique landscapes, ranging from vast lava flows

to towering cliffs, provide a glimpse into the Earth's dynamic geological processes. Through guided field excursions, you'll uncover the secrets of this volcanic wonderland and gain a deeper appreciation for the forces that have shaped our planet.

## Book Your Exploration Today

Plan your journey to Craters of the Moon National Monument and embark on an extraordinary adventure through a lunar-like landscape. Book your field excursion today and immerse yourself in the wonders of volcanism.

Visit the Craters of the Moon National Monument website



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