

The only noise is you

Step into a landscape shaped by fire and time. About 6,000–7,000 years ago, molten lava from nearby Newberry Volcano flowed through a living forest, surrounding the trunks of towering pine trees. As the lava cooled, the trees burned away, leaving behind hollow stone casts—ghostly impressions of a forest long gone.



Today, those casts still stand etched with the texture of bark and even traces of ancient charcoal.

At nearly 5,800 feet elevation, this high-desert forest feels both quiet and otherworldly. Ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and white fir now grow among the lava, joined by juniper, manzanita, wildflowers, and bright bursts of Indian paintbrush reclaiming the black rock.

What looks barren at first glance is full of life—chipmunks dart through the rocks, pikas call from hidden crevices, and hardy plants thrive in thin volcanic soil.

Nearby volcanic landscapes were used to train Apollo astronauts, chosen for their stark, otherworldly terrain—one of the closest Earthly comparisons to the Moon.

Wander the trail and imagine the moment when fire met forest—and left behind a story written in stone.

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Getting there:

Distance: 33.3 miles

Driving time: 59 minutes

From the Chamber of Commerce to Lava Cast Forest:

Head north on US-97 for 19.7 miles

Take the South Century exit, turn right and follow the dirt and gravel N. Paulina Rd for 13.6 miles. The road is well signed.

Turn onto NFS 900

Arrive at Lava Cast Forest



51375 Huntington Road, La Pine, OR 97739

www.LaPine.org

Email: info@lapine.org * 541-536-9771

Day Trippin' in Newberry National Monument



LAVA CAST FOREST



Before You Go

The entire Lava Cast Forest loop is paved, and about one-third of the trail is designated wheelchair accessible. The path runs alongside many of the lava casts, making them easy to view up close. The accessible trail is mostly flat, and the scenery, views, and quiet can be enjoyed from there.

Amenities

Accessible parking and vault toilets. Picnic table, paved path



Bring With You

Sunscreen, lunch/snacks, water, bug repellent, sun hats, binoculars, camera/phone, flashlight, jacket—even in summer

Remoteness

The dirt road from one mile east of Century Drive exit is gravel/dirt road in is well maintained until near the end but is not plowed in winter. Consider letting someone know where you are going and when you'll be back. Freezing nights are common year-round

Good to Know

Shade is limited—plan for full sun exposure

Cell service is unreliable or unavailable

Stay on the paved trail to protect fragile lava and plant life

