

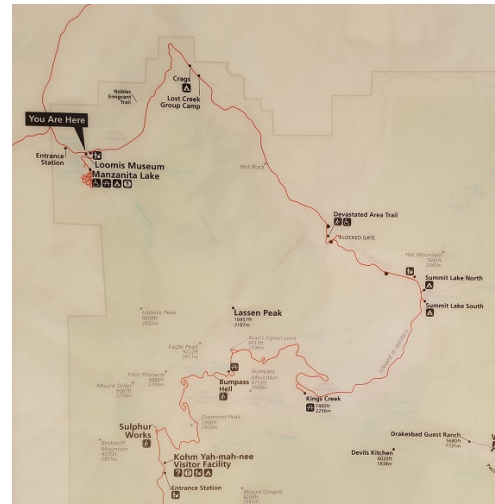
## MAY 3 - LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK & SUBWAY CAVE



Time to boogie! After 3 days in Redding, CA it's time to head east into the mountains. We are heading towards Reno but our final destination today is unknown. We don't want a repeat of the long day from the coast to Redding a few days ago.

We want to see Lassen Volcanic National Park - it is on our way today. The sun is shining and the temperature is rising as we climb through the pine forests.

We turned off at Lassen NP and drove to the park entrance.



The ranger said the road was closed 10 miles in due to snow - 6' of it still. She explained that it wasn't just the accumulation of snow, it was the damage the winter storms did to the trees/vegetation in the park that can take up to

2 months to clear and re-open the roads. Apparently the south entrance still has snow up to the eaves of the buildings!



We know we will be visiting other national parks this year so we purchased an annual pass, good for the national parks and many other sites in the US.

The ranger suggested we take a walk along the shores of Lake Manzanita. There are really nice views of Mount Lassen. It's sunny and warm - so let's go!

The pine cones are big in the park, but the sugar bush pines are the biggest - up to 24" tall!



I asked the ranger about camping in the area and she suggested Cave campground just a short distance from Old Station, just up the road. She also suggested we should check out Subway Cave - a lava tube.

We had a look at the campground and decided to stay the night. No services, but nice large sites in the trees. A bargain at \$16!



I decided to check out the Subway Cave - I dunno what part of "cave" didn't register, but I got to the cave entrance and realized I should have brought a flashlight. I walked into the cave a short distance, then decided to return to camp.





## SUBWAY CAVE

ave length - 1300 feet  
 Average Cave Temperature - 46 degrees

Welcome to Subway Cave! This easy 1/3 mile walk will lead you through the underground world of a lava tube. It begins and ends at the parking area. Take a good light (or two), a jacket, and follow the interpretive signs for a self-guiding tour.



After tea, I walked back to the cave and strolled through it, flashlight in hand. The temperature is a constant 46°F year round. When you think a few thousand years ago, hot molten lava was flowing right where I was standing, it was pretty impressive. Pictures don't do the cave justice.

We settled in for the evening and watched a Netflix movie that I had downloaded before we left. Tomorrow we head further east to Reno - the biggest little city in the world. See you there!