

LOCAL, STATE & REGION

National parks will be free for several days in 2021, starting with MLK Day

BY JAMIE HALE
The Oregonian

Those headed outdoors for Martin Luther King Jr. Day will be able to enjoy the first fee-free day of the year at national parks and other federal lands in the Northwest.

National parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges and other federal recreation areas will all waive parking and entrance fees Monday, the first of several fee-free days to come in 2021.

All agencies under the Department of the Interior — the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — will recognize six free days this year, while the U.S. Forest Service, which is part of the Department of Agriculture, will recognize five free days.

With all four agencies, there will be nine opportunities to visit federal lands for free this year. Parking and entrance will be free on those days, while camping and other fees will remain in place.

Most federal agencies charge minimal parking fees to access outdoor recreation areas, while national parks often charge higher entrance fees. Entrance into Crater Lake National Park, for example, is \$30 in warmer months and \$20 during the colder season.

Washington State Parks will also offer free parking Monday, one of 11 free days the state park agency recognizes. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, meanwhile, typically offers free parking on only three days of the year: New Year's Day, State Parks Day in June, and Green



Jamie Hale/The Oregonian file

The Olympic Mountains rise above the Enchanted Valley in Olympic National Park in northwest Washington state.

Fee-free days

Here are the fee-free days for federal lands in 2021:

- Jan. 18:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Feb. 15:** Presidents Day (not recognized by National Park Service)
- April 17:** National Park Week (National Park Service only)
- June 12:** National Get Outdoors Day (U.S. Forest Service and BLM only)
- Aug. 4:** Anniversary of Great American Outdoors Act (Not recognized by U.S. Forest Service)
- Aug. 25:** National Park Service Birthday (National Park Service only)
- Sept. 25:** National Public Lands Day
- Oct. 11:** National Wildlife Refuge Week (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service only)
- Nov. 11:** Veterans Day

Friday in November.

The federal fee-free days this year include holidays such as Veterans Day and Presi-

dents Day, as well as annual public lands celebrations National Public Lands Day and National Get Outdoors Day.

Some agencies also celebrate their own specific occasions, like National Park Week and National Wildlife Refuge Week.

A new public lands holiday has also been added for 2021: the one-year anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act on Aug. 4, which will be recognized by the Department of the Interior.

Most land management agencies also sell annual passes that allow people to access public lands for free all year. They range from the \$30 Northwest Forest Pass offered by the U.S. Forest Service to the \$80 America the Beautiful Pass that applies to all federal lands.

TODAY

It's Sunday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2021. There are 348 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

In **1996**, Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman and nine followers were handed long prison sentences for plotting to blow up New York-area landmarks.

In **1806**, Thomas Jefferson's daughter, Martha, gave birth to James Madison Randolph, the first child born in the White House.

In **1916**, the Professional Golfers' Association of America had its beginnings as department store magnate Rodman Wanamaker hosted a luncheon of pro and amateur golfers in New York City. The PGA of America was formally established on April 10, 1916.

In **1944**, during World War II, Allied forces launched the first of four battles for Monte Cassino in Italy; the Allies were ultimately successful.

In **1953**, a prototype of the Chevrolet Corvette was unveiled during the General Motors Motorama at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York.

In **1955**, the submarine USS Nautilus made its first nuclear-powered test run from its berth in Groton, Connecticut.

In **1961**, President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered his farewell address in which he warned against "the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

In **1977**, convicted murderer Gary Gilmore, 36, was shot by a firing squad at Utah State Prison in the first U.S. execution in a decade.

In **1984**, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios, Inc., ruled 5-4 that the use of home video cassette recorders to tape television programs for private viewing did not violate federal copyright laws.

In **1995**, more than 6,000 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 devastated the city of Kobe, Japan.

In **1997**, a court in Ireland granted the first divorce in the Roman Catholic country's history.

In **2008**, Bobby Fischer, the chess grandmaster who became a Cold War icon when he dethroned the Soviet Union's Boris Spassky as world champion in 1972, died in Reykjavik, Iceland, at 64.

Ten years ago: Apple Inc. announced that its CEO, Steve Jobs, was taking his second medical leave of absence in two years. (Jobs died

nine months later.) Rock promoter Don Kirshner, 76, died in Boca Raton, Florida.

Five years ago: Ahead of the Iowa caucuses, Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders engaged in their most contentious debate to date, tangling repeatedly in Charleston, South Carolina, over who was tougher on gun control and Wall Street and how to shape the future of health care in America. Iran released three Americans, former U.S. Marine Amir Hekmati, Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian and pastor Saeed Abedini, as part of a prisoner swap that also netted Tehran some \$100 billion in sanctions relief.

One year ago: U.S. health officials announced that they would begin screening airline passengers from central China for the new coronavirus; people traveling from Wuhan, China, would have their temperature checked and be asked about symptoms. With the Lunar New Year approaching, Chinese travelers flocked to train stations and airports to take part in the annual Spring Festival travel rush; officials estimated that some 3 billion trips would be made in the world's biggest annual human migration.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Betty White is 99. Former FCC chairman Newton N. Minow is 95. Actor James Earl Jones is 90. Talk show host Maury Povich is 82. Pop singer Chris Montez is 79. R&B singer William Hart (The Delfonics) is 76. Rock musician Mick Taylor is 73. R&B singer Sheila Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 68. Singer Steve Earle is 66. Singer Paul Young is 65. Actor-comedian Steve Harvey is 64. Singer Susanna Hoffs (The Bangles) is 62. Movie director-screenwriter Brian Koppelman is 60. Actor-comedian Jim Carrey is 59. Actor Denis O'Hare is 59. Former first lady Michelle Obama is 57. Actor Joshua Malina is 55. Singer Shabba Ranks is 55. Actor Naveen Andrews is 52. Electronic music DJ Tiësto is 52. Rapper Kid Rock is 50. Actor Freddy Rodriguez is 46. Actor-singer Zooey Deschanel is 41. Dancer Maksim Chmerkovskiy is 41. Singer Ray J is 40. Actor Diogo Morgado is 40. Former NBA player Dwyane Wade is 39. Actor Ryan Gage is 38. DJ-singer Calvin Harris is 37. Folk-rock musician Jeremiah Fraites is 35. Actor Kathrine Herzer is 24.

—Associated Press

LOCAL BRIEFING

3rd death from COVID-19 at Madras prison

A third inmate has died at Deer Ridge Correctional Institution in Madras after testing positive for COVID-19. The man, who was not identified by the Oregon Department of Corrections, died Saturday. He was described as being between the ages of 55 and 65. He is the 28th inmate to die in

Oregon prisons after testing positive for the virus. The first COVID-19 death at Deer Ridge was reported Dec. 9, when a man, between age 75 and 85, died. The second death was reported Dec. 18, age 55-65. The first case of COVID-19 was identified at the prison Nov. 13. As of last month, Deer Ridge is housing about 675 inmates.

—Bulletin staff report



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