



LONG CREEK

Elevation: 3,754 • Population: 195

Long Creek is located at the head of a high valley of the Blue Mountains. Incorporated in 1891, stories say the town received its name from the nearby creek, which was thought to be the longest in Oregon. However, Long Creek was actually named after John Long, a prominent miner in Grant County in the 1860s.

The town was home to an army fort during the Indian Wars of 1878. The Long Creek Historical Society plans to relocate the fort and establish a museum and interpretive site in town.

Long Creek features multiple activity sites, from the "Social Security Pond" located on Highway 402, 5 miles west of town, to the City Park which houses a basketball court, picnic area, horseshoes and playground. The area also attracts hikers, bikers, fisherman, hunters, and folks who appreciate the quiet of the sparsely populated area.

DON'T MISS:

Leave modern life behind at Ritter Hot Springs, a rustic, historical resort. Enjoy the natural mineral water that is pumped weekly into the swimming pool, or enjoy a mineral bath in a private room. Stay in one of eight hotel rooms, the group cabin, or bring your tent or camping trailer. Visit ritterhotsprings.com for more information.



MONUMENT

Elevation: 2,000 feet • Population: 126

Situated near the convergence of the North and Middle forks of the John Day River, Monument is a popular place for fishermen, rafters, picnickers and photographers who find the rugged rimrock vistas captivating. Monument was given its name by Isaac Vilott, allegedly from a nearby mountain that resembled a pulpit. The town was incorporated in 1905, and, for reasons unknown, again in 1947.

Monument offers many recreational opportunities for the outdoor adventurers. Head to the Thomas Cavender Reservoir for fishing or to J. Dempsey Boyer Park for basketball/tennis courts, horseshoes, barbecuing, a playground, and restrooms. Monument River Park offers a boat launch, picnic area, a large grassy area and restrooms, it is situated on the bank of the North Fork of the John Day River.

DON'T MISS:

Thomas Cavender Reservoir: Grab a lunch and your fishing pole or a good book, and relax at this little oasis just outside town. A ramped fishing dock leads down to the sparkling blue water of this 12-acre pond. For a bit of outdoor exercise, a 3/4-mile dirt trail encircles the pond, with benches and clusters of shade trees interspersed along the way. A small dirt parking area allows for a few cars. Just north of Monument on Highway 402, turn north onto a short dirt road, at the "Monument Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary" sign.