**Visiting Three Sisters**

Three Sisters National Park was established in 1945 as a Montana State Park, located at the center of the Rocky Mountains. However, after the Mountain Amity eruption, the area was designated a national park to forever preserve the city or Saint Joan, and monitor the state of the two other mountains, Trinity, and Clarity. The Park is home to beautiful flora and fauna for you to see an admire, and exploration is encouraged but we politely ask that you do what you can to keep this park beautiful. Remember to keep on designated trails, pick up trash, and respect plants, animals, and your fellow humans.

**Volcanic Danger**

In 1975 Mt Amity unexpectedly erupted in a violent fashion. This resulted in the complete loss of the new by town of Saint Joan, with hundreds still missing to this day. Then and now we keep an extremely close eye on the condition of all our volcanoes. Even so, while it is unlikely, an unexpected eruption could come from any of the three volcanos within the park. Always pay attention to park alerts via text message and note Volcanic evacuation routes. For questions and concerns, please speak to a park ranger or any park staff.

**Fishing and Hunting**

While fishing is allowed at certain rivers and lakes, please be sure to procure a fishing permit from a ranger station or visitor center. Hunting is strictly forbidden within park grounds as well as the surrounding national forests. Any attempt to do so will result in an arrest, a maximum fine of $50,000, and a minimum of 3 years in prison. Remember that most species in the park are endangered and need to be preserved for future generations.

**Camping**

Camping is allowed at designated campgrounds and camping areas. Most campgrounds are first come first serve or can be reserved online at **recreation.gov/tsnp/camping** or call **406-253-1324**. Backcountry camping is allowed with a permit at designated areas. To see a map and procure a permit, please visit a ranger station or visitor center.

**Park Safety**

**In the case of an emergency, dial 911.**

For Non-Emergencies you can call **406-921-2331,** which will connect you directly to park health and safety services.

Three Sisters National Park has onsite medical care from the county operated Carmen Memorial Hospital. There, they can treat everything from a paper cut to a broken leg. There are also fire and rescue services, who are the first responders to any emergency within the park. If it looks dangerous it is dangerous. For more safety information and regulation, be sure to read a park safety brochure, located at all visitors’ centers and ranger stations. Or go to [**www.nps.gov/tsnp/safty**](http://www.nps.gov/tsnp/safty).

Remember that winter weather can change suddenly, be prepared for cold and wet conditions at any season. Even a warm summer day can turn into a cold day, or light rain turn to a snowstorm at higher altitudes. Make sure to bring plenty of water even for light hiking, dress appropriately for the weather and match your hike to your physical ability.

Further Information

While this map covers most of the popular and important parts of the park there is much more to see and explore. For more in-depth trail maps and tourist information go to [**www.gothreesisters.org**](http://www.gothreesisters.org) or [**www.nps.gov/tsnp**](http://www.nps.gov/tsnp). You can also get additional information from a park ranger or park staff.

Three Sisters National Park

5321 Highway P-23

Three Sisters National Park, MO, 59858

460-563-8390 (Recording)

[www.nps.gov/tsnp](http://www.nps.gov/tsnp)

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Three Sisters National Park is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about the national parks visit ww.nps.gov

Top

Mountains have always been a deep part of humanity. They have been beacons guiding us to here we need to be. In the 1800s it marked the end of the long trek through the rocky mountains for the johannson sisters, and now, its marks the beginning to an adventure through the Montanan wilderness, leading to the edge of the clouds

In 1976, after the Mt Amity Eruption, congress designated Three Sisters State park, and much of the surrounding area to be Three Sisters National Volcanic Park in order preserve the natural beauty of the park, as well as the graves of those who perished.

Today, the park is filled with new stories, things to see and experience. Discover then rich natural and cultural stories hidden in the forests and caves. Swim in its many rivers and lakes, make your way to the highest peeks, and ski back down to the bottom.

**Park History**

In 1874 the Johansson Sisters, Aud and Catharine, traveling to Oregon from Pennsylvania crossed over the Rocky Mountains. After days of travel they rested right in the center of the mountains we know today as the three sisters. Their journals read that “The deep spiritual energy emanating from these mountains was more powerful than even the greatest cathedrals.” They named these three mountains, Amity, Clarity, and Trinity, the rhyming names was an insisted upon by Aud.

In 1948, the area was incorporated in the Montana State Park system, around this time it was discovered that these three mountains were dormant volcanos, and more importantly, could erupt within the next few decades. To monitor the state of the mountains, the Three Sisters Geologic Observatory was established. For years the volcanos remained dormant, and it was thought that the risk of eruption was low.

In 1975, Mt. Amity exploded in an eruption so violent that the ash cloud covered the entire park. This eruption was completely unexpected, according to records, there was no sign that the mountain was close to eruption especially one this explosive. Current theories think that there was an extreme buildup for pressure within an previously unknown chamber in the volcano, that lead to its explosion. Over 200 died in the following days, most were in the town of St. Joan, which was a town right outside the park, 35 miles from the base of the mountain. Since the eruption was unexpected, very few had time to gather any belongings, leaving these people homeless with nothing by the clothing on their backs.

**Activities**

The park offers various activities and places to see while exploring. The most famous are Treeline Lodge, and Trinity Meadows. Treeline lodge is a lodge near the base of Mt Trinity, the lodge is available for people to stay, but is also an extremely popular spot of skiers. The lodge provides a lift system up the mountain to various ski routes for all skiers from beginners to experts.

Trinity Meadows is an area located in a large meadow close to Mt Trinity. The area is the location is the historic Trinity Meadows Lodge, the first attraction ever built in the park, constructed in 1903. The park also offers cabin rentals, as well as camp sites. For more information about all these and more, please visit [**www.recration.gov/tsnp** or call **406-253-1324**](http://www.recration.gov/tsnp%20or%20call%20406-253-1324)

Three Sisters National Volcanic National Park is a mark in southwestern Montana. The Park was originally a Montana state park that contained three mountains, mountains Trinity, Clarity, and Amity. All three were thought to be dormant volcanoes, but unbeknownst to geologists, mount Amity was closer to eruption than previously thought. In 1975, mount Amity exploded, the resulting ash cloud covered up half of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, reaching all the way to Saranoma Crater in Oregon. The resulting lava flow completely covering the town of St. Joan, while much of the town as able to evacuate, it was unexpected nature caught many off guard. In the following days over 50 people died or went missing, and 150 later died of respiratory conditions.

Later in the year the remaining citizens of St. Joan petitioned the United States government to preserve the area around the park to preserve the lives that were lost from the explosion. At their bequest the United States government and the local Montana government reached a deal and officially created Three Sisters Volcanic National Park. As cleanup efforts were still underway real development of the park didn’t start until 1978.