

Jordan Craters

The road into Jordan Craters is best suited for four-wheel-drive vehicles or vigilant Subaru drivers with clearance and wherewithal. This road is not good enough to be traveling after even a quarter inch of rain: Do not leave the road if this is the case.

From I-84, take exit 3 in Idaho for Highway 95 toward Payette/Parma. Turn right. Follow Highway 95 south as it crosses the Snake River. In 34 miles, turn right onto Highway 95 south instead of heading east toward Marsing. Continue driving south, crossing into Oregon, for 36.4 miles. Then, turn right on Curly Lodge Road. Follow it for 6.9 miles to a T-intersection with Cow Creek Road. Follow it until the third intersection, which is with Lodge Ranch Road on the right. Turn, then continue forward for 2.5 miles and then turn right on Blowout Reservoir Road. In 13.7 miles, turn left onto Coffeepot Crater Road. Continue for about 1.4 miles to the destination.

From Jordan Valley, head north on Highway 95 for a little more than 8 miles to a sign for Jordan Craters. Turn left and follow the good gravel road for 11.5 miles to a fork on the road. Keep right. Drive nearly 7 miles to another fork, and go left onto a rougher dirt road. Stay left at another fork in roughly 6 miles. And after about a mile and a half, fork left once again. Drive to the end of the road to a parking area. You will see Coffeepot Crater in front of you.

About the Owyhee Canyonlands

The Owyhee Canyonlands require preparation, awareness and self-sufficiency. Once you leave the blacktop you will not find services or amenities. Top off your gas tank when leaving gateway communities like Jordan Valley or Rome, and carry a spare gas can.

Driving conditions in the Owyhee can be challenging. Roads are often unmaintained, rocky and rutted. Check each destination write-up for road conditions and advice on clearance and four-wheel drive recommendations. A small amount of precipitation makes the road surface slippery, creating mud buildup that clogs wheel wells and limits travel.

Each vehicle should contain a full-size spare tire, towing straps/chains, a jack, some flat boards, Fix-a-Flat, a lug wrench, jumper cables and a five-gallon water jug.

Your best bet for traveling in the Owyhee Canyonlands is to purchase the Malheur Canyon Country and Owyhee Canyon Country maps from the Bureau of Land Management.