



An American Tour: *158*



Oregon's *Crater Lake Lodge*

Crater Lake Lodge is a hotel built in 1915 to provide overnight accommodations for visitors to Crater Lake National Park in southern Oregon, USA. The lodge is located on the southwest rim of the Crater Lake caldera overlooking the lake 1,000 feet below. The lodge is owned by the National Park Service.

William Gladstone Steel accompanied the Dutton party in 1886. In 1909, Steel finally convinced a Portland developer, Alfred Parkhurst, to build a lodge on the rim above Crater Lake. The average winter snowfall at Crater Lake is 533 inches. As a result, the lodge structure was required to carry an extremely heavy snow load for up to eight months every year. In addition, building materials had to be trucked to the site over very poor park roads, and the construction season was limited to only three summer months. These factors combined to slow construction and drive up project costs. To compensate, Parkhurst kept the structure very simple. The lodge had no private bathrooms and electricity came from a small generator.

In 1967, the National Park Service acquired the Crater Lake Lodge. The lodge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. In 1988, the National Park Service approved a plan to rebuild the lodge as part of the comprehensive Rim Village redevelopment program. The finished building didn't pass inspection, though, so...Another renovation was completed in the fall of 1994 at a cost of \$15 million (equivalent to \$26 million in 2019). On May 20, 1995, Crater Lake Lodge reopened to the public. Current visitors enjoy modern accommodations in a rustic atmosphere reminiscent of the original 1920-era lodge. The lodge has 71 rooms. Each room provides modern comfort and privacy. The Great Hall has been completely restored. The dining room overlooks the lake and serves northwest regional cuisine. An exhibit room just off the lobby provides information about the history of the lodge, Crater Lake, and the park. The lodge is open from late-May to mid-October.

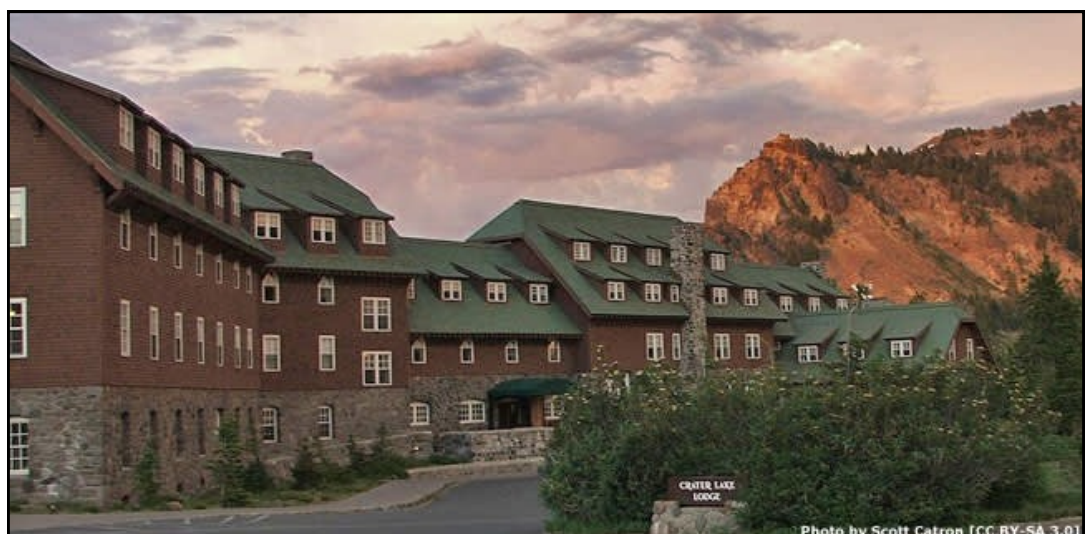


Photo by Scott Catron [CC BY-SA 3.0]