

WEST PORTAL

Introduces the geologic and human story and the timeline of events that happened on that fateful night along with a map of the Earthquake Lake Geologic Area.

EARTHQUAKE LAKE VISITOR CENTER

The Earthquake Lake Visitor Center provides interpretive services for more than 50,000 visitors annually. It offers panoramic views of Earthquake Lake as well as interpretive displays on earthquakes, plate tectonics, and a working seismograph. Visitors can purchase educational materials at the book store operated in partnership with Yellowstone Forever.

NIGHT OF TERROR

When the landslide blocked the Madison River, Rock Creek Campground started flooding and was completely underwater by the following morning. Some campers escaped and others perished. Imagine waking up and seeing the landslide towering over you at dawn.

EARTHQUAKE LAKE OVERLOOK

Stop for a panoramic view of the lake and ghost trees. The slide dammed the Madison River to form Earthquake Lake, which filled in three weeks and created a body of water 190 feet deep and five miles long. While the lake is slowly getting smaller, the bathtub ring of drowned trees around the lake shows how high it once was.

REFUGE POINT AND OVERLOOK OF GHOST VILLAGE

This high knoll was a haven throughout the night of August 17 for many survivors of the earthquake. The next morning Forest Service smokejumpers parachuted to this meadow and set up a first aid station. Helicopters evacuated the injured from Refuge Point during the day.

Take a short walk through the meadow to the Ghost Village overlook. From here you can look down and see the remains of Halford's Camp. These cabins floated in among the trees as the water of Earthquake Lake rose. The desolate cabins are now silent reminders of that frightful night.

CABIN CREEK SCARP

At this site a fault scarp severed the old campground. The scarp split a campsite, leaving the picnic table several feet higher than the fire ring.

THE LAKE THAT TILTED

Here you can drive a segment of the pre-quake road and also see where a landslide occurred, destroying a part of that road. A short walk along Hebgen Lake on an accessible paved trail will take you to the old site of the Hilgard Lodge. Hebgen Lake dropped 19' during the quake and caused seiches. Seiches are successive waves of water that destroyed the lodge cabins.

EAST PORTAL

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