



The Apple-2 houses, part of Operation Teapot, a weapons-related series of nuclear tests in 1955, are a highlight of the Nevada National Security Site public tour.

Welcome, Visitors!

Since the establishment of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), formerly known as the Nevada Test Site, in 1951, thousands of people from around the world have visited the vast outdoor laboratory. Public, civic and technical tours of the Site are provided by the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office.

Spanning 1,355 square miles, the Site is larger than the state of Rhode Island, and features artifacts and archaeological sites from the early settlers, as well as many relics from the era of Cold War nuclear weapons tests, nuclear rocket experiments and a variety of other defense, environmental and energy-related programs.

Public Tours of the Nevada National Security Site

Registration

Free, general-interest public tours of the Site are provided two to three times each month. Six months' worth of tours are opened up at a time, with notifications posted on the NNSS website and social media accounts. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Since the NNSS is a restricted-access government facility, visitors must apply well in advance to attend a tour. Tour participants must be at least 14 years old. Pregnant women are discouraged from participating in tours because of the long bus ride and uneven terrain at the Site.

Group and media tours are available as well. Visit our website for additional information and to register.

Transportation and Other Considerations

The NNSS is located 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada, with each tour covering about 250 miles. Transportation is provided in the form of a chartered coach bus, equipped with a restroom. Tours depart from the National Atomic Testing Museum.

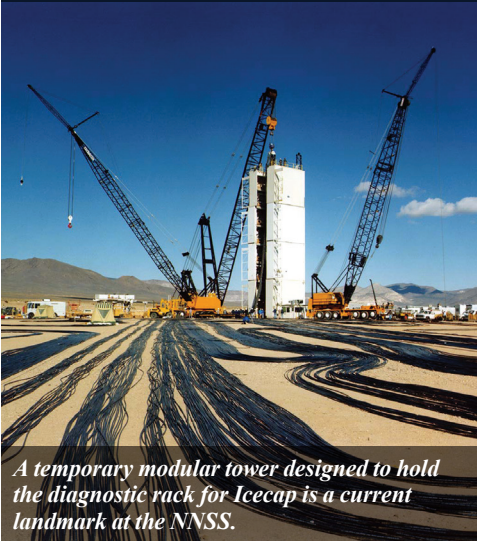
Participants are given the option to either bring a lunch or eat at the Bistro at the Site. (The Bistro takes only credit or debit cards. No cash is accepted). Casual clothing is recommended (light clothing in the summer and layers in the winter), and sturdy shoes are required for the rugged terrain. No shorts or sandals are permitted.

Points of Interest

- **Mercury, Nevada**, is the first stop. It's the main base camp for the NNSS.
- The **Icecap modular tower** was built for a joint United Kingdom/Los Alamos National Laboratory underground nuclear test scheduled for the spring of 1993. What would have been the 929th nuclear test came to a halt when President George H.W. Bush signed the Underground Nuclear Testing Moratorium Oct. 3, 1992. The tower still stands in Area 7 of the Site.
- **Gun Turret**: an above-ground moveable naval gun turret and a circular, partially underground concrete bunker. The turret functioned as a shelter for the instruments, detectors, and power and communications devices that recorded data from atmospheric nuclear tests.
- Measuring 1,280 feet in diameter and 320 feet deep, visitors will get a chance to see **Sedan Crater**. The crater resulted from an experiment conducted as part of the Plowshare Program, which explored the peaceful uses of nuclear explosives. The 104-kiloton nuclear explosion displaced about 12 million tons of earth, creating the crater which has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1994.
- **Bilby Crater**: Detonated on Sept. 13, 1963, Bilby's 249-kiloton detonation was one of the largest on Yucca Flat, and was the first underground test to be felt by a large number of people in Las Vegas, about 65 miles away. It was fired 2,400 feet underground in volcanic rock, and produced a subsidence crater approximately 1,800 feet wide and 80 feet deep.



News Nob, a stop on the NNSS tour, was a gathering place for members of the press to witness atmospheric tests.



A temporary modular tower designed to hold the diagnostic rack for Icecap is a current landmark at the NNSS.

- **Apple II Houses:** Apple II was a 29-kiloton nuclear device placed on top of a 500-foot tower for a May 5, 1955 test in Area 1 of the Site. A typical American community – complete with one- and two-story homes, American-made automobiles, mannequins, food and more – was constructed to measure the effects of a nuclear test. Today, the houses that remain are a high point of many NNSS tours.
- **T-1 Training Facility:** To increase domestic preparedness to combat terrorist threats, the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office provides a one-of-its-kind radiological/nuclear weapons of mass destruction training center at the Site. Emergency responders are trained to take immediate, decisive action in response to terrorist use of radiological or nuclear weapons of mass destruction.
- **Frenchman Flat** is the location of the first atmospheric nuclear test – Able – at the Site. It was conducted on Jan. 27, 1951. Thirteen subsequent atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted on Frenchman Flat between 1951 and 1962.
- **The Nonproliferation Test & Evaluation Complex** is used by the chemical and petroleum industry and government agencies to test chemical spill dispersion and mitigation, and provides training for first responders. It's the world's largest facility for open air testing of hazardous toxic materials and biological simulants.

- **News Nob** is the viewpoint from which journalists, such as Walter Cronkite, and visiting dignitaries witnessed atmospheric tests.

Security Requirements and Prohibited Articles

Prospective visitors must supply the following information:

- Full name as it appears on driver's license or other form of photo identification
- Date and place (city and state) of birth
- Home and business address and phone number
- Citizenship (foreign nationals will be asked to supply additional information at least six weeks before their visit)

Visitors are not permitted to bring cell phones, cameras, binoculars, telescopes or tape recorders on the tour. Firearms and alcoholic beverages are prohibited at all times. Visitors may not remove soil, rock, plant samples or metal objects from the Site.



Sedan Crater

NNSASM
National Nuclear Security Administration

For more information, visit:

www.nnss.gov

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