

Manzanar, officially called the Manzanar War Relocation Center, began as an "assembly center" under the U. S. Army control. Construction began in March 1943 and the camp was quickly filled with former residents of Bainbridge Island, Washington and Terminal Island, California, followed by those persons of Japanese ancestry expelled from the Southern California area with more than 70% from the Los Angeles area. The War Relocation Authority took control of Manzanar on June 1, 1942 and operated the camp until it closed in November 1945.

The camp which consisted of 36 blocks of barracks, was the scene of much hardship as men, women and children sought to establish some semblance of normal life while attempting to overcome the trauma of forced evacuation and facing an uncertain future. It was the resource-fulness and labor of the camp population which turned Manzanar into a habitable place for the remainder of their enforced stay.

Under the terms of the lease with the City of Los Angeles which owns the land at Manzanar, the camp site was to return to its original condition. The barracks were dismantled, leaving only the auditorium (now used by the Inyo County Highway Department), the stone guard houses, the cemetery and hundreds of trees planted by the internees.

THE MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE

The annual Pilgrimage to Manzanar began in 1969, when a group of college students organized what they thought was their "first" Pilgrimage to the former World War in campsite. But for two Issei, Rev. Sentoku Mayeda and Rev. Shoichi Wakahiro, it was their 25th trip.

Today, the annual Pilgrimage is held on the last Saturday of April with participants gathering at the northwest corner of Manzanar, near the cemetery monument. The day begins with early arrivals taking self-guided mini-tours around the one-mile square area, awaiting the arrival of the larger contingent by automobiles and buses.

It has become a custom to share a potluck lunch and to gather in front of the cemetery monument for Christian and Buddhist services. The afternoon progrom includes speakers, music, additional mini-tours for latecomers and audience participating activities. The traditional finale has become the dancing of the Tanko Bushi (Coal Miner's Dance) by everyone.

The Pilgrimage is sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, a non-profit, educational organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California.

THE MANZANAR COMMITTEE 1566 Curran Street Los Angeles, CA 90026 (213) 662-5102

PILGRIMAGE INFORMATION - April 27, 1985

Wear comfortable walking shoes, layers of clothing which can be taken off when the weather turns warm. Dust and strong winds are a possibility. The altitude is about 5,000 feet above sea level and you may find yourself "winded" by too strenous activity.

Do not drive on the dirt roads in the camp--you may get stuck in the sand. Tow trucks are expensive!

Please bring your own water and food and flowers to place on the grave sites. Outdoor toilets will be provided.

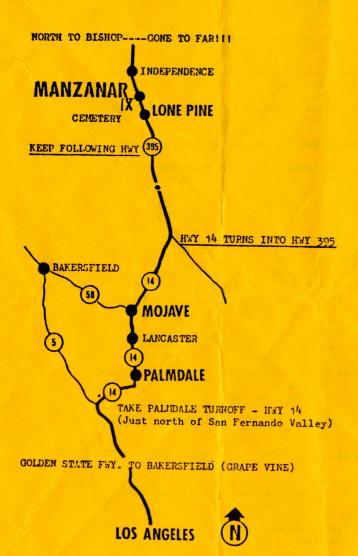
Campsites are available; contact the Inyo County Parks and Recreation Department.

Check with your local Automobile Club for motel listings and prices.

REMEMBER: Please take only photographs; leave only footprints.

PROGRAM

Approximate Time	Activity	Location
9:00 a.m.	Self-guided mini-tours and/ or visit to Eastern Calif. Museum or even help Committee	Varied locations
Noon 'til l p.m.	Pot luck lunch	Picnic table area
1 p.m. 'til 1:45 p.m.	Religous Services	Cemetery
1:45 p.m. 'til 2:45 p.m.	- National Park Service presenting plaque to City Coram Nobis case status - Update/Statements on Redress	Flatbed truck
	- Other presenters	
2:45 p.m. 'til 3 p.m.	Ondo Finale - gather in one large circle in front of flatbed truck	Flatbed truck
3:15 p.m.	Buses depart.	



MANZANAR is located between Lone Pine and Independence. It is on the West side of HWY 395 approximately 9 miles North of Lone Pine on your left. You will notice two stone houses and a large green building. This is the old camp auditorium.

THIS IS MANZANAR

Now approximately 1 mile North of the guard houses on the left (West) you will see a small dirt road and a cattle gate. This is the road to the cemetery. Follow it West (good road) and it will turn left (South) and then you'll see the

MONUMENT

NOTE: The trip will take about 4 1/2 hours. Therefore, leave L.A. about 6:00 a.m. so you will have ample time to arrive at the Pilgrimage.