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**Western National
Parks Association**

Press Release

Pinnacles National Monument

What created these striking geologic formations?

Tall rocky spires of volcanic origin rise near a nonvolcanic California mountain range. Obsidian gleams from high cliffs, its igneous origin hinting at the processes that formed the ruddy ramparts and lonely pillars that make up the varied terrain of Pinnacles National Monument.

Pinnacles National Monument explores the formation of these unique geologic formations: how scientists surmise the Pinnacles area has been carried 195 miles north of its original location by the inexorable creep of the earth's tectonic plates. The ancient volcano was split in half; remains can still be found in southern California's Neenach Formation. Erosion's slow sculpting of the rocks resulted in the landforms we see today.

Humans have inhabited the area for at least two thousand years: first the native Coastanoan people; and later the Spanish, Mexican and then American settlers as California became a state. Its unique natural beauty led to its designation as a National Monument in 1908, among the first to be declared as such by President Roosevelt, using the recently passed Antiquities Act.

Learn about the history and culture of a geologically unique area, now preserved as a part of our national park system. Lavishly illustrated, *Pinnacles National Monument* will take readers on a fascinating journey through California history.

Pinnacles National Monument by Sandra Keith
ISBN 1-58369-052-2
16 pages, 7 3/4 x 10, \$4.95

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