

Petrified Forest

NATIONAL PARK • ARIZONA

The Painted Desert of northern Arizona is a strange landscape of curious shapes and colors in patterns to excite the eye. Here, in the weirdly eroded badlands, are found those mysteries of nature, the trees that have turned to stone. Thousands of great logs, brilliant with jasper and agate, lie scattered about; here and there the ground is paved with broken sections and chips, many of which preserve the smallest details of the original wood. Petrified Forest National Park was established to protect some of the largest of these deposits for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Prehistoric Indians, too, knew and lived amid these stone trees. Ruins of their dwellings and their petroglyphs are here.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

The park is open during daylight hours every day of the year.

Approaching from the east and north, you should enter from U.S. 66 (Int. 40) at the Painted Desert entrance. Approaching from the south and west, you should enter at the south entrance, where the park road joins U.S. 180. Thus you will be able to see the park by driving through it on the park road, which connects the two highways, and you will not have to double back.

If you arrive at a nearby town by plane, train, or bus, you must arrange for commercial travel through the park.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Refreshments, lunches, souvenirs, and gasoline may be purchased at the Painted Desert Oasis and Rainbow Forest Lodge. These estab-

lishments, about 26 miles apart, are near the entrances to the park. Both are open all year.

Small picnic areas with tables are maintained at Rainbow Forest and at Chinde Point.

There are no overnight facilities within the park, and camping is not allowed. The nearest campgrounds are in national forests to the southeast and west, nearly 100 miles away.

Motels, restaurants, and other services are located in nearby communities.

SEASONS

Summer days may be quite warm, and clear weather may be broken by sudden thunderstorms. In winter, cold and snowy days are not uncommon. High winds may be expected at any season.

REGULATIONS

Your national parks were set aside for the preservation of outstanding natural, scenic, and historic values. They are an irreplaceable part of our national heritage. Regulations have therefore been established to insure that this part of our heritage remains intact, to be enjoyed by those who come later.

Natural features. You may pick up and take a good look at a piece of petrified wood, but you may *not* take even small samples of it from the park. This rule helps to insure that future generations will see the park just as you see it today. For the same reason, Federal law also protects wildflowers, animals, and the remains of Indian occupation.

Pets must be kept under physical control.

Care in driving. Park roads were designed to provide access to scenic points of interest; they are not high-speed highways. Park only in designated areas. Report any accident to the nearest ranger station.

Hiking. Check with a park ranger at the visitor center or entrance station if you plan to hike away from established trails. Be sure to carry an adequate supply of water, for there is *none* in the desert.

Picnicking is permitted only at Chinde Point and in Rainbow Forest, where water and restrooms are available. Please deposit all litter in the trash cans.

Camping is not permitted in the park.

ADMINISTRATION

Petrified Forest National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

A superintendent, whose address is Holbrook, Ariz. 86025, is in immediate charge of the park. His office is in the Painted Desert Visitor Center.

HOW TO SEE THE PARK

At the Painted Desert Visitor Center (near U.S. 66), you can obtain information about this and other areas in the Southwest administered by the National Park Service. And at the Rainbow Forest Museum (near U.S. 180), you can see exhibits that include a diorama, outstanding specimens of polished petrified wood, fossils, minerals, and diagrams that explain how wood becomes petrified and how badlands are formed.

Wayside exhibits at major points of interest along the park road (28 miles long) may also increase your enjoyment and understanding of this area. Interesting drives to several places off the main road increase the distance of the complete trip through the area to about 36 miles. The guide map shows the principal points of interest by numbers, which refer to adjacent descriptions.

Now, examine the map and prepare for your first stop, which will be at 1 if you enter the park from U.S. 66 or at 13 if you enter from U.S. 180.

A WARNING: TO SPARE YOU EMBARRASSMENT

Federal law prohibits removal of any petrified wood from this park, *no matter how small the piece*. If you violate this law, you will be subject to a fine or imprisonment or both.

The reason for strict enforcement of this law will be clear to you: If every visitor should remove even a small piece of petrified wood, there would soon be none left. A thoughtless, selfish person who might attempt to take away a chip of petrified wood would, in effect, be guilty of trying to steal from all visitors who come after him.

Petrified wood, obtained from sources outside the park, may be purchased from park concessioners or from adjacent curio shops.

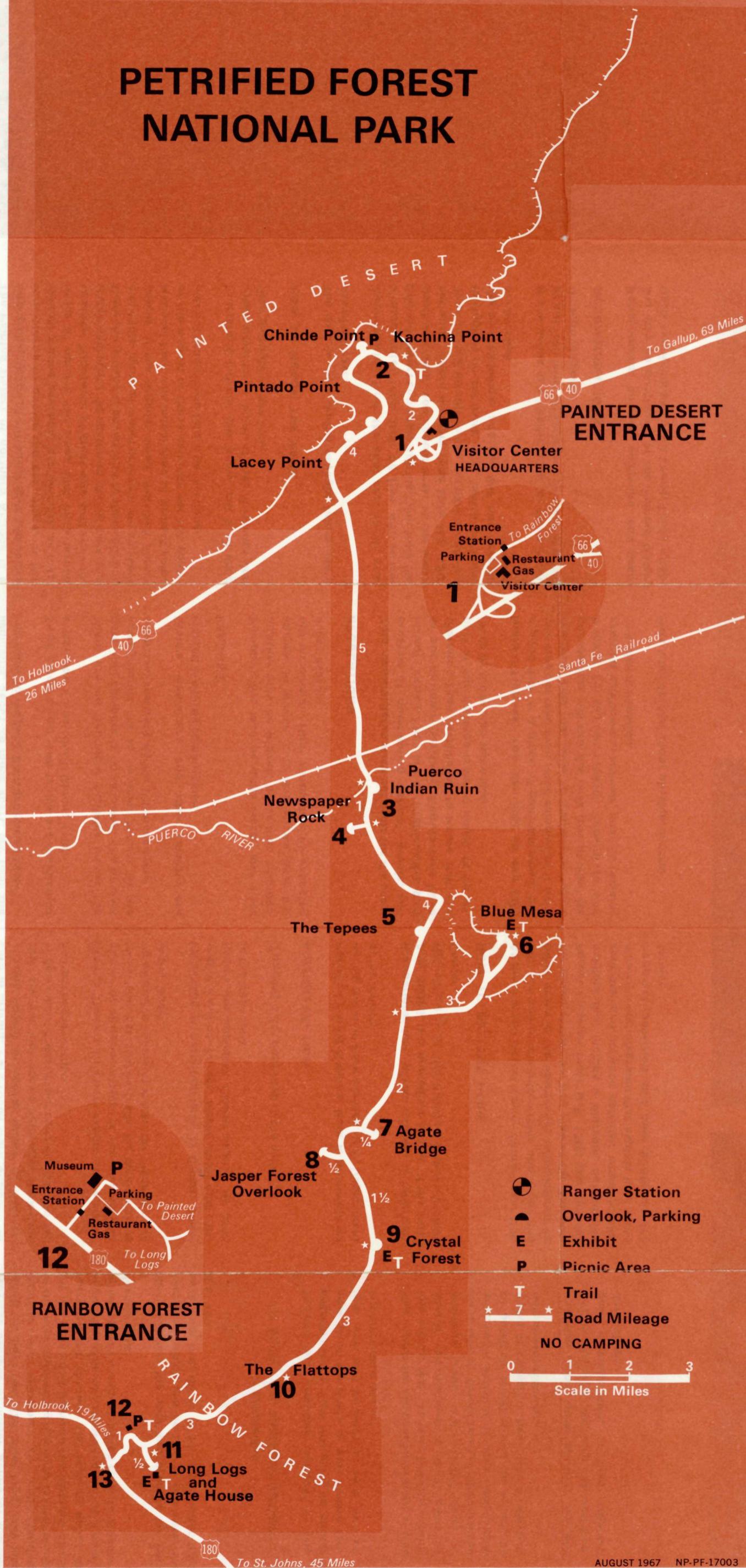


THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR — the Nation's principal natural resource agency — has a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute to the progress and prosperity of the United States, now and in the future.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service



PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK



ROAD GUIDE

1 Painted Desert Visitor Center and Headquarters: U.S. 66 entrance. Information. Exhibits on this and other units of the National Park System. Lunch room, souvenir shop, and service station.

2 Painted Desert: Sweeping views from several overlooks along the rim and from the observation site on Kachina Point. Picnic area on Chinde Point, just west of Kachina Point observation site.

3 Puerco Indian Ruin: Remains of walls at site, which was occupied about 600 years ago, indicate a rectangular village of perhaps 150 rooms enclosing a large courtyard. A few rooms have been excavated.

4 Newspaper Rock: Petroglyphs (prehistoric Indian rock art) pecked into the surface of a massive sandstone block.

5 The Tepees: Small peaks resembling tepees or haystacks showing erosion of soft, layered clay deposits.

6 Blue Mesa: Illustrates the way petrified logs play a part in the constant renewal of the sculptured landscape. The soft earth erodes away, leaving a gradually narrowing ridge beneath the length of each log. Eventually, sections of the log roll off the ridge; erosion then reduces the ridge to a series of rounded pinnacles. When a section of a fossil log remains as a protecting cap atop one of these ridges, erosion often produces a pedestal-like formation capped by the log section. Sections of logs that come to rest at new locations on the soft clay after tumbling from their perches immediately start the erosional cycle all over again.

7 Agate Bridge: More than 100 feet of this famous log are exposed, but both ends are still encased in the sandstone in which the log was buried. A 40-foot-wide ravine has gradually been carved into the sandstone, with the log spanning the narrow draw. A concrete-beam support was placed under the heavy log in 1917 as a precaution against collapse.

8 Jasper Forest Overlook: The spur road leads to the edge of Jasper Forest Mesa. Great masses of log sections litter the valley floor and clog the gullies that cut into the edge of the mesa.

9 Crystal Forest: Here were once many fossil logs in which beautiful clear and amethyst quartz crystals filled the cracks and hollows. Before Federal protection of the area, collectors and souvenir hunters blasted many of the logs in search of these gems. This type of activity prompted the citizens of the Arizona Territory to petition Congress for the preservation of Petrified Forest.

10 The Flattops: Massive remnants of a once continuous layer of durable sandstone protecting a series of layered deposits that have elsewhere been removed by erosion. The road passes through a cleft separating the two main bodies of this surviving tableland.

11 The Long Logs and Agate House: The eastern part of Rainbow Forest is most notable for the number of exceptionally long logs, which are only partly uncovered. A partially restored pueblo, now called Agate House, is at the end of a foot trail from the parking area.

12 Rainbow Forest Museum and Giant Logs: Exhibits here are designed to answer pertinent questions that visitors may have when arriving at or leaving the park. Behind the exhibit hall are Old Faithful Log and many other exceedingly large logs. Picnic area nearby. Lunch room, souvenir shop, and service station.

13 Rainbow Forest Entrance Station: 2 miles from park boundary on U.S. 180.