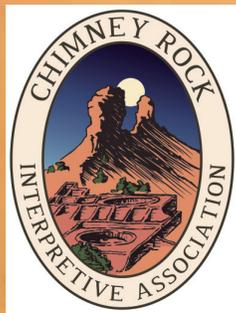




CHIMNEY ROCK NATIONAL MONUMENT



MEDIA KIT 2013



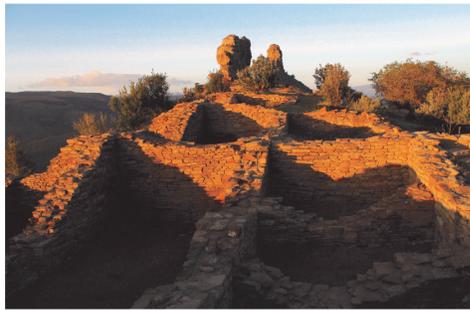
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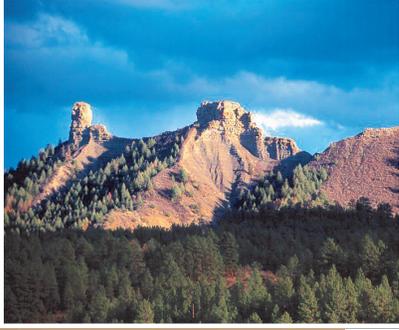
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BACKGROUND

One of America's newest National Monuments, Chimney Rock is a sacred place, a celestial observatory and a seasonal calendar for the Ancestral Puebloans over 1000 years ago. Chimney Rock National Monument encompasses 4,726 acres, preserving hundreds of prehistoric sites that dot the landscape around the twin spires known as Chimney Rock and Companion Rock. It is the most isolated and remote communities connected to Chaco Canyon and it is also the highest in elevation.

LOCATION

Chimney Rock National Monument is located in Southwest Colorado. The site lies off Highway 151, 3 miles south of Highway 160 between Pagosa Springs and Durango.

Chimney Rock is approximately 20 miles west of Pagosa Springs, 40 miles east of Durango, 300 miles from Denver and 230 miles from Albuquerque.

SEASON

Chimney Rock is open May 15th through September 30th for guided and self guided tours, monthly programs and special events.

HISTORY

Chimney Rock was the home to the Ancestral Pueblo Indians 1000 years ago and has spiritual significance to many tribes. The Ancestral Puebloans built more than 200 homes and ceremonial buildings high above the valley floor. The Great House, Ridge House and hundreds of structures are found within the seven square miles of the National Monument.

CHIMNEY ROCK AT A GLANCE



- Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, conducts daily tours and operates the Visitor Center during the season from May 15 through September 30. Their mission, in partnership with the San Juan National Forest, is to provide the site's care, protection, and preservation, as well as public interpretation and education. CRIA manages the interpretive program at the Monument under a special use permit with the Pagosa Ranger District and USDA Forest Service.
- Chimney Rock was proclaimed a National Monument on September 21, 2012. The designation was made under the Antiquities Act with bipartisan support from Colorado officials, Native Americans, local businesses and other stakeholders.
- Chimney Rock has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1970.
- Ancestral Puebloans called Chimney Rock home 1000 years ago.
- Chimney Rock is the most isolated and remote of the "outliers"- the communities connected to Chaco Canyon-and it is also the highest in elevation.
- Chimney Rock National Monument encompasses 4, 726 acres, preserving hundreds of prehistoric sites including the Great Kiva, a multi-family dwelling and a Chacoan style Great House Pueblo.
- The first excavation at Chimney Rock was in the 1920's and the most recent was in 2009.
- From 2004 to 2007, the Major Lunar Standstill (MLS) moon rose periodically between the two stone pillars of Chimney Rock. This occurs every 18.6 years and is believed to have influenced construction of the chacoan-style Great House. Whether coincidence or planned, the Great House Pueblo is a natural observatory for the MLS.
- The Ancestral Puebloans established an impressive base of calendrical knowledge. It is likely the astronomer priests in Chaco Canyon learned to depend on the sky-watchers at Chimney Rock who had set up a string of observatories along the rim of Peterson Mesa.
- The biologically rich mountain zone of Chimney Rock National Monument yielded a variety of wild food and game to supplement the Ancestral Puebloan's cultivated crops of corn, beans and squash. Flora and fauna were used for food and tools. Many of these native species are still evident at Chimney Rock today.

ABOUT CHIMNEY ROCK INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION



ABOUT

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit volunteer association with headquarters in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. CRIA promotes public education, interpretation and stewardship of culture and history through guided tours and special events. Programs at Chimney Rock National Monument are presented by trained volunteers who support the mission to preserve and protect the Monument while educating the public.

In addition to our four daily tours, CRIA offers private tours for groups of 10 or more. All educational institutions/school groups and Native Americans are complimentary. CRIA has accommodated over 1,000 students ranging from first grade to college age at no charge in less than a 5 month period. CRIA stands behind its educational mission statement by lifting any financial burden off of educators and students.

CRIA does not receive funding from federal or state governments therefore donations are vital for continued programming and site preservation.

MISSION STATEMENT

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association is devoted to providing increased numbers of visitors with a meaningful, enjoyable educational experience through interpretive tours and special programs and to the long term preservation of Chimney Rock National Monument.

HISTORY

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) began operation as a non-profit on May 1, 2004. CRIA operates in partnership with the US Forest Service and the San Juan National Forest. Chimney Rock was occupied by Ancestral Puebloans from about 900 AD to about 1150 AD. In 1970 it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and in 1995 Congress designated Chimney Rock as an official Chacoan Outlier. Four structures of the hundreds of sites in the area have been excavated and stabilized for viewing. It is these sites that are the focus of the interpretive tours for over 12,000 visitors a year. On September 21, 2012, President Barack Obama proclaimed Chimney Rock a National Monument and increased the size of the monument to 4,726 acres, including Peterson Mesa.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT

CRIA operates the tour program at Chimney Rock National Monument through a special use permit from the US Forest Service. As the permit holder, the Interpretive Program is required to follow all applicable Forest Service regulations and is required to pay a 6% Permit Fee to the Forest Service based on gross sales and tour fees.

TOURS

Tours and programs are provided by the staff and volunteers of Chimney Rock Interpretive Association. Tour and program fees support maintenance and protection of the site, the interpretive program, educational programs and volunteer training. Fees for guided and self-guided tours are \$12/adult; \$5/child (ages 5-16); children under 5 are free. All tour fees are considered a non-refundable donation. Tour times and tour lengths vary. Please visit our website at www.chimneyrockco.org/walktoursched.php

Guided Walking Tours: The guided walking tour is informative and fun and includes both the Great Kiva Trail and the Pueblo Trail. Guests will see a 44-foot diameter Great Kiva, pit house, a multi-family dwelling and several other excavated structures. At the top, Chimney Rock's Chacoan-style Great House Pueblo is spectacular against the backdrop of the San Juan Mountains.

Self-Guided Walking Tours: Available between 10:30am & 2:30pm. The self-guided walking tours only include the Great Kiva Trail that is ADA accessible.



SPECIAL PROGRAMS



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The interpretive program at Chimney Rock includes opportunities to see the site in a different light. All special program fees are considered a non-refundable donation.

Night Sky Archaeoastronomy Program: Enjoy the night in a truly dark environment. The evening starts with a talk at the amphitheater. As darkness descends, guests will be given the opportunity to view the night sky with our telescopes. This program is perfect for young families and those with limited mobility.

Full Moon Program: Watch the full moon rise over the mountain peaks to the music of a Native American flute. An early tour is offered of the Great Kiva Trail. After the select Full Moon programs, guests are given the option of viewing the full moon through telescopes.

Visions of Chimney Rock: This free program takes a particular topic and explores in depth. It provides an enjoyable and informative experience for all ages.

Native American Cultural Gathering: Traditional singers, storytellers, and dancers from various Pueblos and Tribes; Native American arts & crafts.

Summer Solstice Sunrise Program: Watch the sun rise over the San Juans this first day of summer and discuss how the Ancients may have lived and why they celebrated the solstice.

Life at Chimney Rock: This free, family-orientated festival is held at Chimney Rock's Visitor Center area. Enjoy interactive demonstrations of crafts and skills of Ancestral Puebloan culture and Native American arts and crafts for sale.

Autumnal Equinox Sunrise Program: Watch the sun rise over the San Juans this first day of Autumn and discuss how the Ancients may have lived and why they celebrated the solstice.