



The Tuff Times

(Tuff-consolidated volcanic ash that forms Bandelier's cliffs and canyons)
Bandelier National Monument



Special 90th Anniversary Edition Winter/Spring 2006



On February 13, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson declared Bandelier a National Monument. Established largely because of its “tremendous ethnographic, scientific and educational value,” Bandelier is part of our shared national heritage.

Bandelier National Monument possesses a wealth of natural and cultural beauty. The park offers visitors a stunning array of wilderness ranging from the Rio Grande valley to vast and dramatic canyons to high mountain forests of ponderosa pines and mixed conifers.



Evidence of human activity dates back 10,000 years. Most visible signs are the remains of Ancestral Pueblo settlements scattered throughout the park and its surrounding area. Sometime after 1100 A.D., Ancestral Pueblo people first arrived in the Pajarito Plateau (home of present day Bandelier) and settled in the area's many canyons and mesas. The Ancestral Pueblo people that lived in and around Bandelier left in the 1500s, settling along the Rio Grande valley where the Pueblo people still live today.

It was in October of 1880, Adolph Bandelier and his Cochiti guide Juan Jose Montoya came into Frijoles Canyon that the

(Story continued on page 2)



Photos from top to bottom from the NPS Collection:
Talus House reconstruction-1920,
Lower Falls-2006,
Inside a cavate at Tsankawi-2006



Logo by Joani Cannon of White Rock

Experience a Timeless Landscape and Legacy

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Bandelier Celebrates it's 90th Anniversary



Bandelier was revealed to the world beyond the Pueblo people and the early Spanish settlers. Proclaiming it “the grandest thing I ever saw,” Bandelier paved the way for others to explore the Pajarito Plateau and document the rich cultural history.

Individuals such as Dr. Edgar Lee Hewitt also played a defining role in the development of modern archeological techniques with their work at Bandelier in the early 20th century.

Designated a National Monument in 1916, the park was originally entrusted to the US Forest Service. The Monument was transferred to the National Park Service in 1932. Shortly afterwards, Bandelier’s historical significance grew even stronger. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) operated a work camp at Bandelier between 1933-40 and built almost every structure that exists in Frijoles Canyon today. The pueblo-revival style employed by the CCC is so impressive in its character and craftsmanship that the area was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987.

Today, Bandelier has the largest collection

of CCC buildings in the National Park system.

In 1925, George and Evelyn Frey came to Bandelier. For over 40 years, Mrs. Frey operated a lodge in Frijoles Canyon and helped define the character and culture that make Bandelier what it is today.

Bandelier covers a territory of approximately 33,000 acres. In 1976, recognizing the importance of Bandelier’s ecosystems, Congress designated almost 70% of the park as Wilderness.



View of Tyuonyi Pueblo from the Frey Trail. The trail was named after Mrs. Frey and, it was the only access to the canyon before the road was built by the CCC in the 1930s.

Sally King

The significance of Bandelier lies in its superb combination of cultural, natural, and wilderness values. Whether it is historic CCC structures, over 2,500 surveyed archeological sites, or piñon-juniper woodlands, Bandelier’s importance to a host of communities is unquestioned. It is an integral part of the larger Pueblo culture of the southwest, and provides a continuing context for traditional practices today. Bandelier contains one of the highest concentrations of Pueblo cavates in the world. It supports an unusual diversity of vegetation types and associated animal life due to its range in elevation and variety of landforms. The fire history and ecology are among the most thoroughly studied in the world.

2006 marks the 90th anniversary of the Monument. Bandelier National Monument has a rich history. From the geology to the human stories, Bandelier is a unique and wonderful place. By helping to protect and preserve these special places, we are ensuring future generations to experience a timeless landscape and legacy.

From the Superintendent



As Bandelier celebrates 90 years as a part of the National Park System, I welcome you to experience a timeless landscape and legacy. We have many exciting special events and activities planned throughout the year and we hope that you will join us in this celebration.

Our forefathers had the foresight to create legislation, like the 1906 Antiquities Act, that enables places important to our shared American heritage to be protected forever. Bandelier was established by President Woodrow Wilson as a result of this Act which is now celebrating 100 years of existence.

The Antiquities Act is arguably the most important piece of conservation legislation in American history. The Act did more for Americans than just set aside National Monuments for special protection. In addition to laying the groundwork for National Parks, the Act has played an important role in the development of archeology in the United States and in expanding public appreciation for the past history of the nation. It has also effectively broadened the role of archeology into museums, parks, and public consciousness. By protecting archeological resources in the public’s interest rather than for commercial use, the Antiquities Act is the basis for other important preserva-

tion laws, among them the Historic Sites Act of 1935, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979. These laws strengthen the ability of Americans to protect and appreciate archeological resources, including sites, collections and reports, as well as other kinds of historic places, structures, and landscapes.



The centennial of the Antiquities Act in 2006 provides an opportunity to reflect on the historic accomplishments of importance to all Americans and to consider the challenges for cultural and natural resource preservation in the 21st century. For more information about this legislation and special centennial activities, visit

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/SITES/Antiquities/index.htm>.

To enjoy other special places established by this Act in New Mexico, visit Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Chaco Canyon National Historical Park, El Morro National Monument, Aztec Ruins National Monument, Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument, White Sands National Monument, Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, Capulin Volcano National Monument or Kasha Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument.

Upcoming Events at Bandelier



January: Celebrate Winter

1/2 Anniversary Newsletter available,
Limited edition Pendleton Blanket
available from the Friends of Bandelier,
Special edition Naumer Anniversary
poster, t-shirt, coin and logo pin
available from WNPA

1/8 Special insert in the Los Alamos
Monitor for the Anniversary

1/14 Anniversary kick-off Events
Winter Photography Walk
Nightwalk*

1/15 PJ Woodland Walk with a Ranger along Tyuonyi Overlook Trail

1/21 PJ Woodland Walk with a Ranger along Tyuonyi Overlook Trail

1/22 Winter Photography Walk and Bread Baking Demonstration

1/31 WNPA school library book kit winner announced

ALL MONTH-Ranger-guided walks on the Main Loop Trail
Educational Materials about Winter sold in WNPA bookstore,
Cultural Demonstrations available for schools



Trail to Alcove House covered with snow.

Sally King

April: Celebrate the Earth

April-May UNMLA Lecture Series: Environmental Issues
on the Pajarito Plateau

4/1 Anniversary Newsletter available

4/15-4/23 Recycled Art Show at Bandelier and at PEEC
Sponsored by PEEC

4/15 Live animal demonstrations at Visitor Center
Nightwalk*

4/15-4/23 Earth Week sponsored by PEEC

4/17-4/22 National Parks Week special event and activities

4/19 Antiquities Act Open House

4/21-6/3 "La Tierra Nuestra" earth art show in the Art Center at Fuller Lodge
sponsored by PEEC

4/22 Earth Day Festival and community clean-ups in Los Alamos
Bird banding in Frijoles Canyon

4/28 WNPA school library book kit winner announced

4/30 Bread baking demonstration

ALL MONTH-Ranger-guided walks on the Main Loop Trail
Educational Materials about the Earth sold in WNPA bookstore
Cultural Demonstrations available for schools

TBA Painting watercolor landscapes sponsored by the Art Center
Defensible Space Day in Los Alamos with County Parks Division



February: Celebrate Bandelier

2/1 Anniversary Newsletter available
Bradbury Science Museum evening lecture on women
in science

2/4-3/3 Art inspired by Bandelier gallery display at
Mesa Library in Los Alamos

2/8 Bradbury Science Museum evening lecture on
women in science

2/11 Birthday Celebration: cake, bread baking
demonstration, Nightwalk*

2/14 Los Alamos Historical Society book signing and

lecture, "The Archeology of Bandelier" with Rory Gauthier at Fuller Lodge

2/15 Bradbury Science Museum evening lecture on women in science

2/28 WNPA school library book kit announced

ALL MONTH-Ranger-guided walks on the Main Loop Trail

Special discounts on WNPA books about Bandelier
Cultural Demonstrations available for schools



Bandelier Turkeys
modified by Mrs. Frey
from petroglyphs at the
wall at Long House

March: Celebrate Women's History

3/1 Anniversary Newsletter available

3/11 Nightwalk*

3/12 Bread baking demonstration

3/14 Los Alamos Historical Society lecture, "The Women of Bandelier"

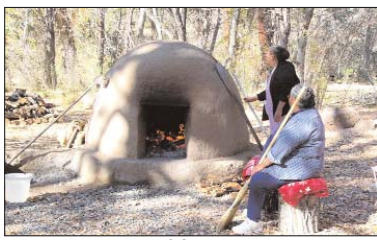
3/18 Special showing of the Bandelier Museum Collection works of Pablita
Velarde and Maria Martinez

3/25 "Walking in the Footsteps of Evelyn Frey" guided tour* in Bandelier
National Historic Landmark
District

3/31 WNPA school library book
kit winner announced

TBA Women of the New Deal
presentation in Santa Fe by the
National New Deal Preservation
Association

ALL MONTH-Ranger-guided
walks on the Main Loop Trail
Cultural Demonstrations available
for schools



Pueblo women of San Juan and Picuris
Pueblos baking bread in the Bandelier
horno.

Sally King

May: Celebrate History and Historic Preservation

5/1 Anniversary Newsletter available

5/13 Special Mother's Day weekend programs and activities
Walking tour of the National Historic Landmark CCC District*



The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)
built the entrance road into the park as
well as 32 structures in Frijoles Canyon
in the 1930s.

WPA/CCC works in New Mexico
presentation*

Book signings by Kathy Flynn of the
National New Deal Preservation
Association

Photographing Bandelier with Dean
Carstens sponsored by the Art Center
at Fuller Lodge*

International Migratory Bird Day
activities: bird banding*

Live bird demonstrations

5/14 International Migratory Bird
Day activities: bird banding*

Live bird demonstrations

Special Insert in the Los Alamos Monitor for anniversary

5/20 Unseen Cavates of Bandelier tour*

Bread baking demonstration

5/21 Walking tour of the National Historic Landmark CCC District*
Presentation* and book signing by Dr. Richard Melzer

5/25 Nightwalk*

5/26 Evening campfire program at Juniper Campground

5/27 Cultural Demonstrations at the Visitor Center/Evening campfire program
at Juniper Campground

5/28 Cultural Demonstrations and Pueblo Dances at the Visitor Center

5/29 Cultural Demonstrations at the Visitor Center

5/31 WNPA school library book kit winner announced

TBA WPA/CCC works in Santa Fe offered by the National New Deal
Preservation Association

ALL MONTH-Ranger-guided walks on the Main Loop Trail
Cultural Demonstrations available for schools

***Reservations Required**

Legendary People of Bandelier



Through the years there have been several people who have had an impact at Bandelier. They are strong-minded people who accomplished achievements different from those of the average person. These people underwent difficulties to find a place for themselves in the world, and because of their work, have all contributed something great to Bandelier and to the world.



NPS Collection

Adolph Bandelier

Adolph Francis Bandelier emigrated with his family from Berne, Switzerland when he was eight years old. Bandelier grew up in Highland, Illinois. From an early age his parents had tutored him at home. At six, he was fluent in French and German. Bandelier played an obligatory role in the family businesses: a mine, a foundry, and a bank. He was not cut out for the business world: but he was a dutiful son and he stayed with it for nearly twenty years. For relief from his hated daily chores, he turned to after-hours study of mineralogy, geology and meteorology. He became interested in the American Southwest and in the chronicles of the

Spanish conquest of Mexico, he taught himself Spanish so he could read historical documents in their original language.

I am dirty, ragged and sunburnt, but of best cheer. My life's work has at last begun.
Adolph Bandelier

Bandelier's interest in the native people of the Southwest led him to seek out Lewis H. Morgan, a pioneer in the study of ethnology and anthropology who spe-

cialized in the Iroquois. Morgan encouraged Bandelier in his studies, gradually lifting his work out of amateur status into a higher dimension. But Morgan's greatest help to Bandelier was his contact with people in the new field of archeology.

Morgan persuaded the year-old Archeological Institute of America that the American southwest was a worthy area for field work and that Bandelier was the man for the job. The Institute agreed to finance Bandelier for a year. It was this appointment that led Bandelier to New Mexico Territory in 1880 and to the beginning of his "life's work." Within a month he had written the first publication of the Archeological Institute of America. Two months later he made his first visit to Frijoles Canyon. For the next eleven years, Bandelier wandered the American Southwest and northern Mexico, tracing the migrations of the native people and filling in the history of the Spanish conquest. He lived on the meager income from his writings.

Bandelier may have been short on funds, but he was long on enthusiasm and stamina. He explored every corner and crevice, tramping across deserts and mountain ranges, sometimes alone, much of the time on foot. He explored many sites. He traveled light, carrying pencils, paper, and a metric measuring stick, often living on the hospitality of the Pueblo people.

He made several trips to Frijoles Canyon and described them as "the grandest thing I ever saw." Bandelier was the first to study and report on the Ancestral Pueblo people of Frijoles Canyon. He later wrote *The Delight Makers*, a fictional novel on Pueblo life in Frijoles Canyon. Bandelier died at the age of seventy-four. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson designated by proclamation that the Canyon of El Rito de Los Frijoles would be preserved forever as Bandelier National Monument. Bandelier made one final visit to the place he loved; in 1980 his ashes were scattered in Frijoles Canyon.

Julian and Maria Martinez

Maria Martinez, born in 1887 at San Ildefonso Pueblo, was a Tewa potter who became a legend in her lifetime. Maria was one of the first Pueblo women to start selling pottery outside the village, initiating a new era for the Pueblos. Selling pottery was a new method for the Pueblo people to earn money. This was not the only reason Maria became famous. Collectors were intrigued by the precise, detailed work done by Maria and her family, especially the black-on-black style she and her husband, Julian, developed. In these pots, they successfully combined both progressive and traditional elements of Pueblo heritage.



NPS Collection



NPS Collection

Pot by Maria and Julian Martinez 1941

The fame started when, in 1908, Maria's husband Julian was working for archaeologist Dr. Edgar Lee Hewett in Frijoles Canyon. During his excavations, Dr. Hewett ran across a piece of old black pottery that he found very interesting. He commissioned Maria and Julian to reproduce the pot. He chose Maria to do the pottery because she was considered one of the most skilled potters of her pueblo. The two of them set to work. Dr. Hewett liked what Maria and Julian made and later helped the Martinez family begin selling their pots outside of the village. In 1918, after several years of experimenting, they produced the first of their black-on-black pieces.

Maria and Julian began to focus on this new burnished black style. Maria made her pots from a mixture of red clay and blue sand. She used the coil method of construction. After the pots were shaped and dry, Maria painted on slip and used a smooth, round river stone to polish them. This is what gave them the very smooth, shiny appearance. Julian was the decorator; he painted elaborate designs onto the pots, which were then fired in a wood fire. Putting dried manure on the fire to create a reducing atmosphere is how the pots obtained their distinctive black color.

"I am happy because I know that pottery will not die. My great-grandmother, Maria, taught me and now I teach my grandchildren."
-Evelyn Naranjo, San Ildefonso



NPS Collection

Pot by Maria Martinez and Popovi Da 1960s

After working actively as a potter for over 70 years, and living for over 90, Maria passed on in 1980, leaving behind a tradition of excellence with her children. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren continue to make the black-on-black pottery, experimenting with new techniques, as Maria and Julian did. Pieces of the Martinez pottery can be seen in the museum at the visitor center, and more can be found at many museums around New Mexico.

Legendary People of Bandelier (continued)



Evelyn Frey “Mrs. Frey”

Evelyn Frey was raised in northern New Mexico during the turn of the century. At 33 years old, in May of 1925, she moved into Frijoles Canyon to become caretaker for the lodge. On the backs of mules and horses, down the old dirt trail now known as the *Frey Trail*, she brought with her: her husband George, her 10 month old son Richard, her household goods, 500 baby chicks, and 75 fruit trees. The current road into the canyon was not built until eight years later—in 1933, when the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) occupied the canyon.



NPS Collection

While living in the canyon and running the lodge, Mrs. Frey had many duties. She home-schooled her son Richard using the popular Calvert System for home-schooling. She said that home-schooling “just about killed her,” but she took him through the fifth grade before sending him to boarding school; by that time he was a year ahead of other students his age. She became famous for the homegrown, home-made meals served at the lodge made by her chef and herself. The 75 fruit trees she brought were planted and in a few years they provided bountiful harvests of fresh apples, pears, peaches, and other fruits.

Mrs. Frey put in a large garden from which she served up corn, peas, beans, and pickles among other produce. A favorite summer meal was fried chicken with fresh biscuits, milk gravy, and raspberry pie for dessert—all of which were cooked on Mrs. Frey’s wood-burning stove. To stay at the lodge cost guests \$2.50 a night and that usually included a meal or two. For daytime visitors, it was 25 cents for a meal. In 1926 the income for the Frijoles Canyon Lodge was reported on tax receipts at \$726.11.

“I’d always raise about 500 chickens each spring. We served wonderful meals, right out of our garden. And we raised ducks and turkeys and mules and cows, and we milked cows and churned our own butter. We served ranch style, or just family style; great platters of chicken on the table. Wouldn’t that be something now?”
-Mrs. Frey

Once the National Park Service took over Bandelier in 1932, her role in the canyon changed. A new lodge was built by the CCC and Mrs. Frey’s old lodge and out building were taken down; her garden was also decommissioned. From 1933–1979 she worked in the new lodge. From 1979 until her passing in 1988 she served as a sales clerk for the bookstore in the visitor center and more importantly, told stories of life in the old days during “*Visits with Mrs. Frey.*” All in all, she spent 63 years in Frijoles Canyon.

Pablita Velarde

Pablita was born in 1918 in the Tewa pueblo of Santa Clara. With her mother dying when she was only three, Pablita and her three sisters were sent to live at a boarding school in Santa Fe. This provided her with the opportunity to take art classes. She first began painting at the age of 14 and soon met famous painter Dorothy Dunn, who persuaded her to push forward in her unorthodox desire to become a painter. Only one woman, Tonita Peña in the 1920s, had gone before Pablita as a female Pueblo artist. Throughout her career, Pablita broke through

many barriers and eventually became a role model to other women like herself.

Pablita was able to succeed as an artist, and played a huge role in the way Pueblo culture was viewed by Anglos. Her paintings depicted Pueblo life from a woman’s perspective and in a way that helped make the culture seem familiar and easier to understand to the lay person. At first she worked in watercolor, but later she started experimenting with traditional paints made of ground rocks. All of her paintings are very brightly colored and show clear, beautiful depictions of different aspects of Pueblo life from day-to-day occurrences to special ceremonies.



NPS Collection

In 1939, Pablita was commissioned by Bandelier superintendent Dale King to paint 84 images depicting Pueblo life for the park visitor center exhibits.



NPS Collection

Silversmith by Pablita Velarde
1940 A Pueblo craftsman working on a silver piece using tools of the trade. He wears a concho belt, and there are finished bracelets to his right. The image was painted on a round masonite board with a brown velvet background, and placed in a glass and wooden frame. This work was commissioned by Bandelier National Monument under the Works Progress Administration [WPA] program.

“I want the earth to remember me through my work.”
-Pablita Velarde

These are just portions of the stories of five very influential people who served in one way or another at Bandelier National Monument. Bandelier researched and documented many areas of the southwest. Maria an Julian did not start out to prove themselves. Rather unexpectedly found themselves in “legend” status after the success of their black-on-black pottery.

They also started a movement that allowed Pueblos all over to begin earning income from their beautiful traditional crafts.

Mrs. Frey also became a legend after her faithful 63 years serving at the park, first as the host at the old lodge feeding many a hungry visitor and finally in more of a serene role as storyteller- passing down invaluable stories of the early years of Bandelier. Finally, Pablita beautifully illustrated the cultural traditions of the Pueblos so that people could better understand the culture. All of these people deserve high recognition for their dedication to Bandelier National Monument!



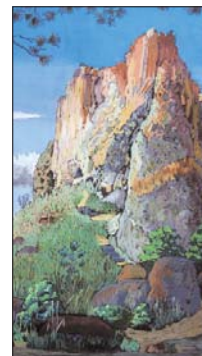
NPS Collection

Men’s Dance by Pablita Velarde 1940 Painted on masonite. Dancers representing buffalo, deer, and antelope. The dance is usually performed in winter. This work was commissioned by Bandelier National Monument under the Works Progress Administration [WPA] program.

Anniversary Items for Sale

“We are all excited about the coming anniversary. With a full schedule of activities throughout the year, it will be a year to remember. And, this collector’s edition wool blanket, along with the other commemorative items, will be a prized tribute to Bandelier and our 90th. The Pendleton blanket showcases design elements that reflect the beauty and uniqueness of Bandelier.”
Darlene Koontz, Bandelier Superintendent

The deep mid-night blue, lush Rio Grande green and earth red were inspired by the rich and intense colors of the pajarito plateau. All of these elements come together to tell

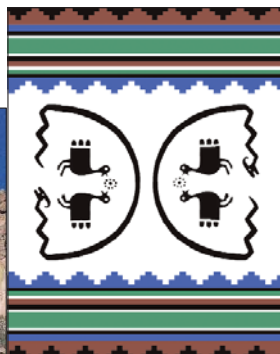


Long House by Helmut Naumer, Sr.

local landscapes and sky. The poster is available for \$5.95 at the WNPA bookstore. For further information on these items please call the WNPA bookstore at (505) 672-3861 x 517.

Come join us for our 90th Anniversary and *experience a timeless landscape and legacy* that is Bandelier National Monument.

As part of the 90th anniversary, Bandelier will have several items for sale to commemorate this event.



Commemorative Blanket side and back view. Above: Computer image of blanket.

the story of Bandelier’s rich past and the legacy that will continue on into the future.

You will certainly treasure this beautifully designed blanket, reflecting the magic of a local place and crafted with the exceptional quality of the Pendleton name.

Funds raised will go toward supporting public 90th anniversary events, education and research at Bandelier National Monument.

Blankets are on sale through the Friends of Bandelier for \$250.00. For more information on how to purchase a blanket, please call (505) 662-2662 or email dorothyh@swcp.com

A sample blanket is also available to view in the Visitor Center.

Other 90th Anniversary items which will be sold are: t-shirts, a pin, a coin and an anniversary

poster. These items will be available through the Western National Parks Association (WNPA) bookstore located in the Bandelier Visitor Center.

The Friends of Bandelier is sponsoring the sale of collector’s edition, 80”x64,” Pendleton wool blankets to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Bandelier. The original design is inspired by the beauty and cultural heritage of Bandelier and the Pajarito Plateau.

The blanket’s distinctive design represents a collaboration of many individuals—across time and cultures. Local Ancestral Pueblo people drew the original Awanyu serpent and rainbow petroglyphs that are adapted into the blanket’s design. The Awanyu petroglyph is common throughout Bandelier National Monument and the Pajarito Plateau. The twin turkeys are also the historic logo for the Frijoles Canyon Lodge in Bandelier. And now the unofficial logo for the park.

The poster is from an original which was painted in 1935-36 of Frijoles Canyon by Helmut Naumer, Sr. Naumer depicts the base of the trail up to Long House, along Bandelier’s Main Loop Trail. Naumer used a black background that made his drawings glow and that highlighted the vivid colors of the

May is Historic Preservation Month at Bandelier

May is Historic Preservation Month throughout the state of New Mexico. Together with numerous community groups and historic sites, Bandelier celebrates the heritage embodied in architecture and cultural landscapes. Historic preservation at Bandelier begins in Frijoles Canyon, a cultural landscape which encompasses cavate pueblos in the tuff cliffs, masonry pueblos and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) National Historic Landmark District. Bandelier’s backcountry is a Wilderness Area rich in archeological sites, ranging from small scatters of stone and ceramic artifacts to pueblos containing hundreds of rooms. At the detached unit outside of White Rock, cavates dot the cliffs below the mesa-top pueblo of Tsankawi. Archeologists, architectural conservators, and facility managers at Bandelier work to preserve these historic resources as a part of America’s shared heritage.



Vanishing Treasures crew working in Tyuonyi Pueblo.

Recent historic preservation projects include masonry stabilization at Tyuonyi and Long House pueblos, documentation and condition assessment of cavates in Frijoles Canyon and of

backcountry archeological sites, and re-roofing of historic CCC buildings.

To find out more about activities taking place during Historic Preservation Month, contact the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, Heritage Preservation Division at (505) 827-6320 or on the web at www.nmhistoricpreservation.org

Bandelier: The Place for Every Season



Snow on the walls of Tyuonyi along Main Loop Trail.

A blanket of glistening white snow drapes across the low walls of Tyuonyi Pueblo. Shadows from the bright sun stain the snow outlining each of the 400 small stone rooms once used for storage. Formerly enclosed spaces protecting the community's very necessary food supplies, the rooms now stand open to the elements.

A small set of Junco footprints mark the smooth surface of the snow. The sound of an angry stellar jay arises from the treetops closer to the creek. Otherwise, all is quiet and peaceful. The winter season at Bandelier is the least visited. For one seeking solitude and not minding a little cold, snowy weather, winter is definitely the best time to visit Bandelier National Monument.

A flash of gold alights on a sun-warmed tree trunk as the first butterflies of the season take to the air. The yellow of blooming New Mexico olive and the green of budding narrow-leaf cottonwoods slowly replace the white and brown of winter. At Long House, lizards lounge on the southwest-facing stone walls to catch the lengthening rays of the sun. This same sun once announced to the Ancestral Pueblo people that the time to plant would come soon. The joyful cries of the White Throated Swifts who have returned to nest in the cliffs above and the hum of the voices of school children on the trail are in marked contrast to the quiet of winter. The sweet perfume of green grass and blooming plants lingers on the air. For those who don't mind the noisy, energetic company of young people and the rushing sound of a swollen stream, spring is the best time to visit Bandelier National Monument.



Fence Lizard.



Twig butterfly.



Western Diamondback Rattlesnake.

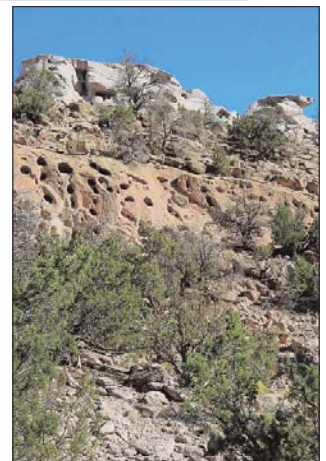
Love is in the air. The Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers, and Ash-throated Flycatchers vie for partners and nesting spaces in the trees along the creek. The hot pink blossoms of Cane Cholla and the large white trumpets of Sacred Datura brighten the rubble slope below Long House. The cavates, protected by the enclosing stone, are much cooler than the heated outside air. As they did in Ancestral Pueblo times these pools of darkened cool air become the resting places of both people and small mammals. In late summer, these same cavates offer protection during the pelting rain of a sudden thunderstorm. A rattlesnake lazily coils its way across the trail. Families joke and laugh as they climb the wooden ladders into the cavates, filling the air with a constant buzz. If you like action and don't like to sit still then summer is the best time to visit Bandelier National Monument.



View of the Rio Grande at the end of the Falls Trail.

The trees along the creek are painted with gold. Tendrils of reddened Virginia Creeper climb huge Ponderosas. Tarantulas, big and hairy, walk the trails in search of partners. An Abert squirrel, ears long and tasseled, digs for tidbits amongst the leaves. The sun works to warm the air but a breeze keeps temperatures tolerable. While during the days shirt-sleeves are often adequate, the nights require a warm, snuggly blanket. Blankets of woven turkey feathers and yucca fiber served this purpose in ancient times. For those who like turquoise blue

skies and warm yellow leaves autumn is the best time to visit Bandelier National Monument.



Tsankawi.

Weather is an important factor when planning a visit to the park. In winter, snow and ice can close trails and the ladders that provide access to Alcove House. In mid-summer, thunderstorms can unleash heavy downpours with little notice. Lightning that often accompanies these storms can make mesatop travel very dangerous. In spring late snowstorms can surprise visitors by dumping a foot of heavy wet snow. Likewise in the fall, an early snow can follow a sunny day with temperatures in the mid-60's. So although weather is an important factor in visiting Bandelier, forecasting the weather is no easy task. With hundreds of archeological sites, diverse plant and wildlife, and a complex rotation of the seasons any time is a good time to visit Bandelier National Monument.



Upper Falls


Article and photos by Ranger Sally King

*For more information on Bandelier, visit our website at www.nps.gov/band.
For information on other National Park Service areas, visit www.nps.gov.*

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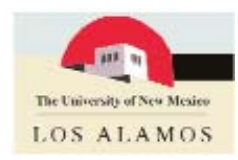
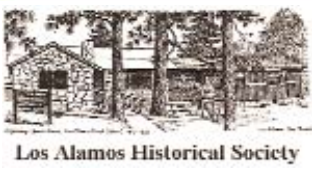
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