

Before You Venture To Chaco...



At the same time medieval Europe emerged from the Dark Ages, a New World civilization called the Anasazi, or Ancient ones, flourished under the desert sun of the American Southwest. These people reached far beyond the confines of Chaco Canyon, into the entire Four Corners region. Today, nearly 1,000 years later, the protected sites at Chaco Culture National Historical Park mutely attest to the achievements of the Anasazi civilization, and to the creative genius of humanity.

How to Get Here . . .

Chaco is considered a remote and primitive park. Visitors should not expect the comfort and conveniences associated with many other parks. **ALL** roads into the park are dirt for the last 20-26 miles. The roads are generally maintained and should not discourage you from coming, however, when it rains or snows the roads can become impassable.

During inclement weather, inquire about road conditions by calling Chaco at the numbers listed at the end of the brochure. Drive carefully and enjoy the trip. **For information on nearby areas, call the Convention and Visitors Bureau in Gallup at 1-800-242-4282 or in Farmington at 1-800-448-1240 or the Grants/Cibola County Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-748-2142.**

Services . . .

NO food, gas, lodging, or auto repair services are available at the park. Please plan ahead and arrive prepared! To the north, the nearest services and amenities are located on State Highway 44 at Blanco and Nageezi Trading Posts, and at the Thriftway convenience store. 20 miles south of Chaco is the Seven Lakes Trading Post, which also has food, gas, tire repair, and emergency telephone services.

Lodging . . .

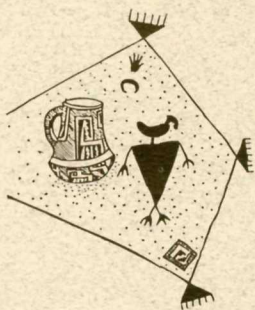
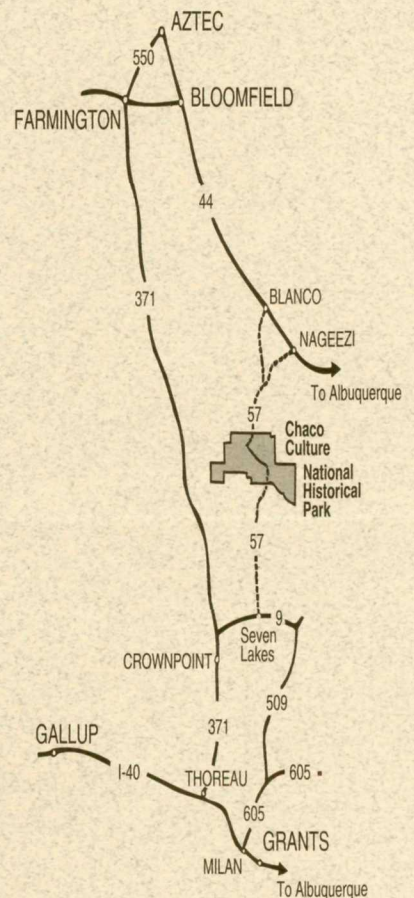
The nearest lodging is a bed and breakfast inn at Nageezi Trading Post, 26 miles north of Chaco. The Blanco Trading Post has limited camping services. Additional lodging is located in Bloomfield, Farmington, Gallup, Grants, and Cuba.

Camping . . .

The Gallo Campground, open all year, is 1 mile east of the park visitor center. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. From April to October the campground will frequently fill by 3:00 p.m. There are 64 sites, each with picnic table and fire grate. Bring your own firewood or charcoal. Gathering wood is prohibited in Chaco. There are rest rooms at the campground, but no showers. Drinking water is available only at the visitor center.

Environment . . .

Chaco is located at 6,200 feet above sea level in a high desert with cool winters (daytime 30-50, nighttime below zero) and warm summer temperatures (daytime 80-100, nighttime 50-60). The vegetation is low shrub, with wildflowers in the spring and fall. Chaco has its share of wildlife, which includes a variety of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. In the summertime, rattlesnakes are sometimes sighted in the canyon. Be on the alert.



Fees . . .

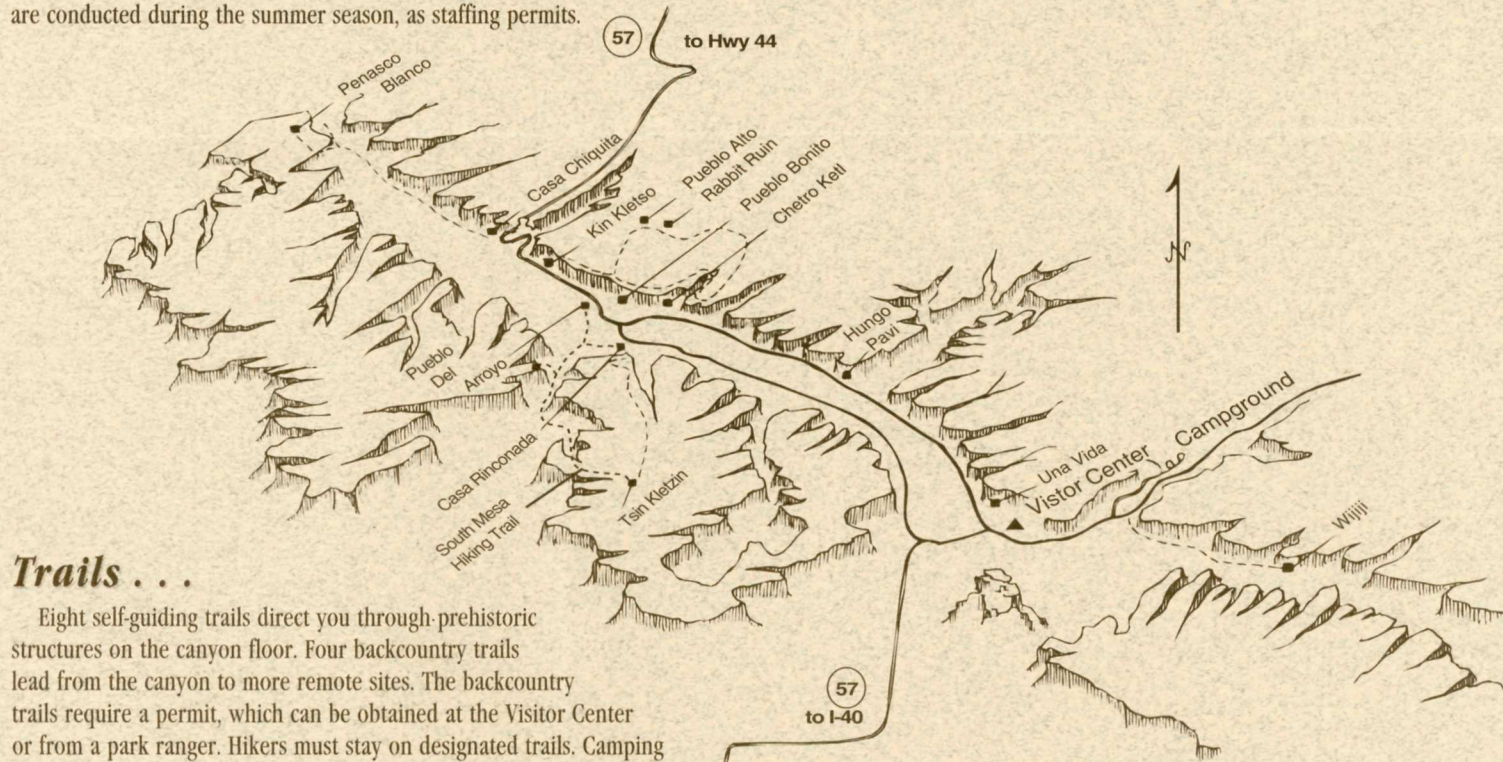
The entrance fee per vehicle into Chaco is \$4.00. The fee for commercial tour groups per person is \$2.00. Campground fees are \$5.00 a night per site. Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access passes are available and honored in Chaco.

Regulations . . .

Chaco Culture National Historical Park was established to preserve and protect the outstanding archaeological resources that are found here. These resources received international recognition after the park was designated a World Heritage Site. Help us preserve and protect this part of our global heritage by staying on designated trails and following the signs. Do not walk or climb on any walls, or enter any rooms off the trail. Park only in developed parking lots. Leave all artifacts, including pottery sherds, where they lay. **The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 is strictly enforced.** It carries a maximum penalty of \$250,000 and 5 years imprisonment for ANY disturbance of archaeological remains.

Programs . . .

The best place to begin your visit is the Visitor Center, which includes a museum, audio-visual programs, sale publications, and general information on the area. Center hours are 8 A.M. - 6 P.M. Memorial Day through Labor Day, and 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. the remainder of the year. Daily walks and nightly campfire programs are conducted during the summer season, as staffing permits.



Trails . . .

Eight self-guiding trails direct you through prehistoric structures on the canyon floor. Four backcountry trails lead from the canyon to more remote sites. The backcountry trails require a permit, which can be obtained at the Visitor Center or from a park ranger. Hikers must stay on designated trails. Camping and fires are not permitted in the backcountry. **All trails and ruins are closed from sunset to sunrise.**

Pets . . .

Pets are not allowed in any of the prehistoric structures or on the trails on the canyon floor. Pets are permitted on the backcountry hiking trails and in the campground, but must be physically restrained at all times. The maximum leash length is 6 feet. Cases of the Bubonic Plague have been reported in northern New Mexico. Fleas carry the plague bacilli, so protect your pets by sprinkling them with flea powder and keeping them on a leash.

Bicycles . . .

Visitors are encouraged to see the sites by bicycle along the eight-mile loop on the canyon floor. Only roads open to public automobiles and the Wijiji backcountry trail may be used by bicyclists.

Precautions . . .

Segments of the trails are uneven and steep. Wear proper footwear, appropriate clothing, and carry ample water. Be aware of extended exposure during hot and cold weather. Brief, violent thunderstorms occur during the summer, and in the winter, trails can be icy and slick.

Information . . .

Should you need further information in planning your visit to Chaco, feel free to write or call:

Superintendent • Chaco Culture National Historical Park • Star Route 4, Box 6500 • Bloomfield, New Mexico 87413 • (505) 786-7014.

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