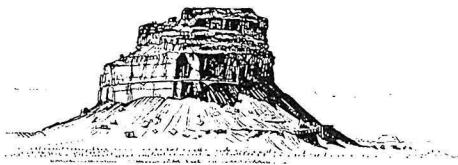


# Before You Venture To Chaco...



*At the same time medieval Europe emerged from the Dark Ages, the Ancestral Pueblo people, or Anasazi, flourished under the desert sun of the American Southwest. The influence of 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 eloquently attest to the achievements of this 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. Both roads into Chaco are dirt for the last 16-21 miles. The roads are generally maintained and should not discourage you from coming, however, when it rains or snows they can become impassable.

During inclement weather, inquire about road conditions by calling the park at (505) 786-7014. Drive with care 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 . . .

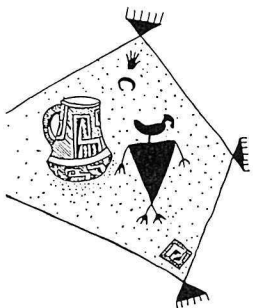
NO food, gas, lodging, or auto repair services are available in the park. Please plan ahead and arrive prepared! To the north, the nearest services and amenities are located on State Highway 44 at the Thriftway convenience store or the Nageezi Trading Post. Forty miles southwest of Chaco is Crownpoint, which has gas, food, and auto repair services.

## Lodging . . .

The nearest lodging is a bed and breakfast inn at Nageezi Trading Post, 29 miles north of Chaco. Additional lodging is located in Bloomfield, Farmington, Gallup, Grants, and Cuba.

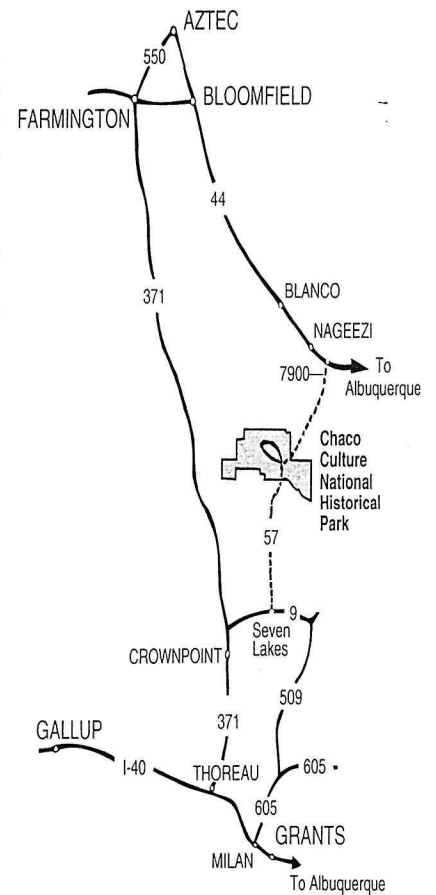
## Camping . . .

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 can be full 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. Wildlife includes a variety of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. In the summertime, rattlesnakes are sometimes sighted in the canyon. Be on the alert.



## Fees . . .

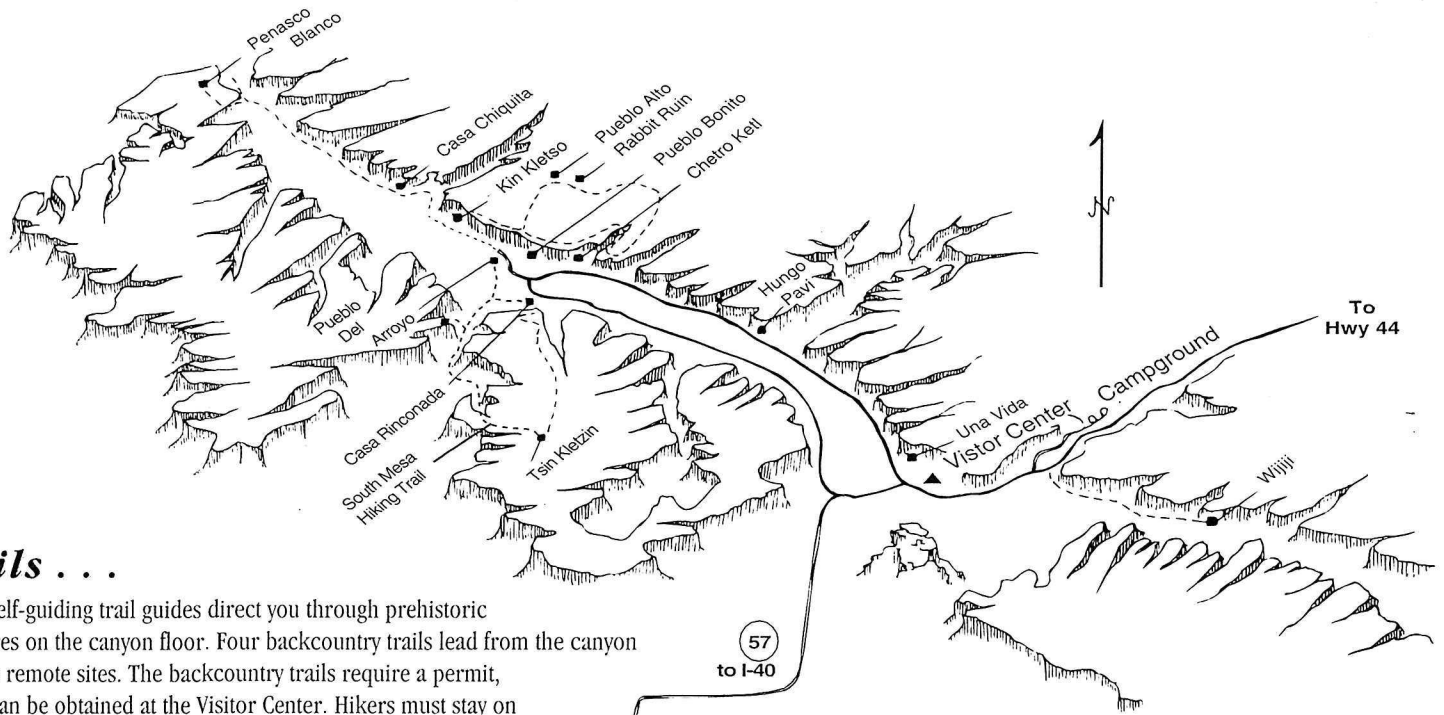
The entrance fee is \$4.00 per vehicle. Fees for commercial tour groups depend upon the number of people and vehicle capacity. Camping fees are \$8.00 per site per night. Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access passes are available and honored at Chaco.

## 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 when the park was designated a World Heritage Site in 1987. 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 designated 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 . . .

Begin your visit at the Visitor Center, which includes a museum, audio-visual programs, sale publications, and general information on the area. Ranger guided walks and campfire programs are conducted during the summer season, Memorial Day through Labor Day, and schedules are posted throughout the park. Visitor 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.



## Trails . . .

Six self-guiding trail guides 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. Hikers must stay on designated trails. Camping and fires are not permitted in the backcountry.

**All trails and sites are closed from sunset to sunrise.**

## Pets . . .

**Pets are not allowed in any of the 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, you can help protect your pets by sprinkling them with flea powder and keeping them on a leash.

## Bicycles . . .

Visitors are encouraged to see the canyon by bicycle along the eight-mile loop road. There are bicycle racks at each of the major sites, and there are two backcountry biking trails for which permits are required.

## Precautions . . .

Segments of the trails are uneven and steep. Wear proper footwear, appropriate clothing, wear sunscreen, 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 • P. O. Box 220 • Nageezi, New Mexico 87037 • (505) 786-7014.**

*Printed with funds provided by Farmington Convention and Visitors Bureau, Grants/Cibola Chamber of Commerce, and the Gallup Visitor and Information Center.*

