

A sepia-toned photograph of ancient cliff dwellings in Mesa Verde National Park. The structures are built into the natural rock formations, featuring rectangular windows and doorways. The architecture is multi-tiered, with some buildings appearing to be built on top of others. The overall scene is a historical and archaeological site.

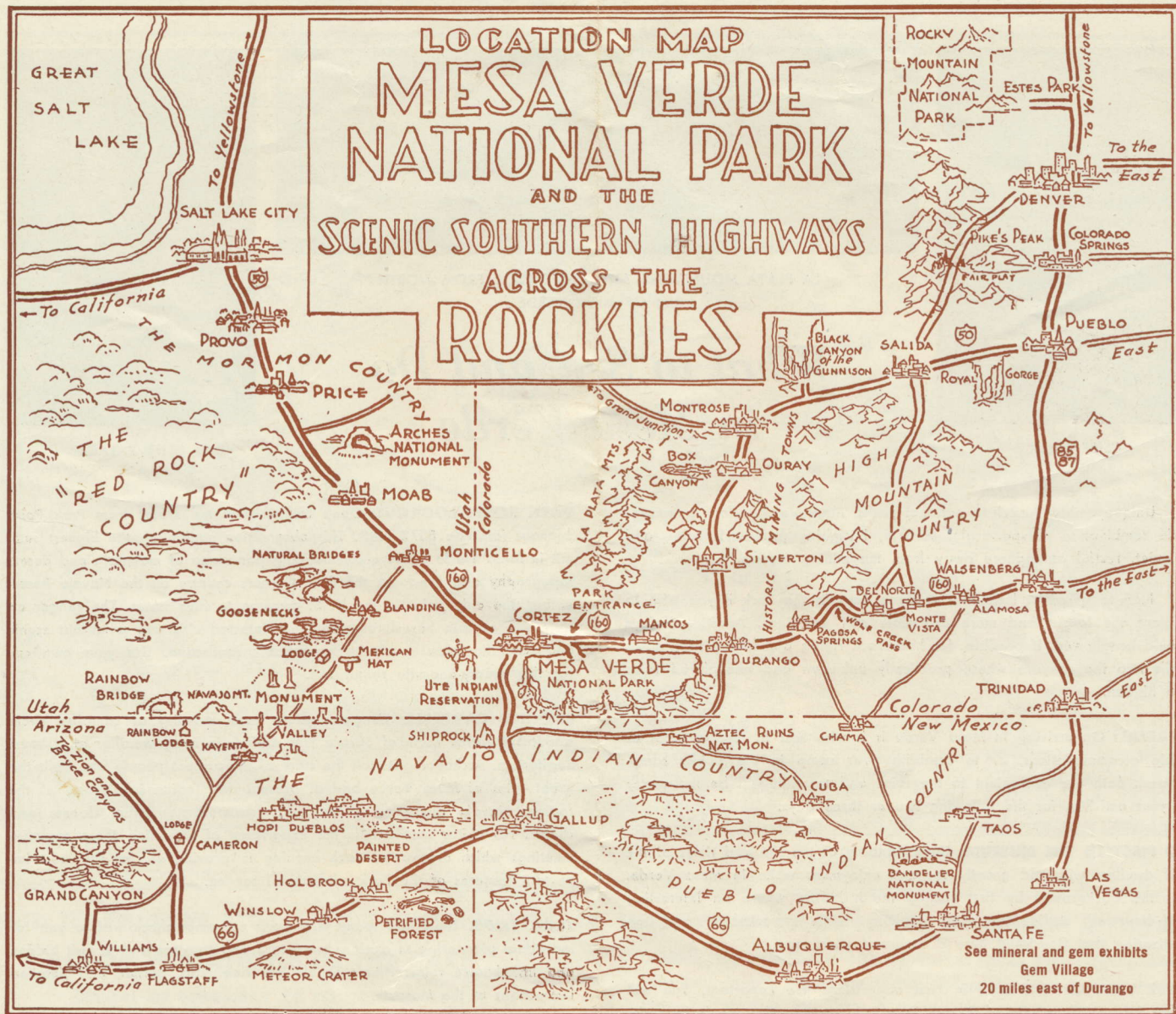
MAP AND GUIDE TO
MESA VERDE

*National
Park*

Follow the
**SCENIC
NAVAJO
TRAIL**
through the
ROCKIES

1954

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How to Reach Mesa Verde National Park

Mesa Verde National Park, so long inaccessible and little known, now invites discovery by motorists. Fine new highways, most of them completely paved, have shortened the driving time to only one day from Denver, Salt Lake City, Grand Canyon, or Santa Fe. For those traveling East or West over Highway 66, Mesa Verde National Park may be reached by a 4-hour drive from Gallup.

Many motorists making through trips over the more northern routes are now following the exceptionally scenic

and varied NAVAJO TRAIL, the scenic southern highway across the Rockies, stopping for two or three days in Mesa Verde National Park to enjoy rest, unique and spectacular scenery, and the thrill of exploring enormous ruins left by a prehistoric people that vanished almost a thousand years ago.

The above "Location Map" is intended to show a view of the interesting features of the Mesa Verde region. Mileages and other details are readily available on any good highway map.



CLIFF PALACE



LA PLATA MOUNTAINS AND KNIFE EDGE FROM NORTH
RIM OF MESA VERDE



CLIFF PALACE

What to See and Do in Mesa Verde

Unique among American national parks, Mesa Verde offers a remarkable combination of spectacular scenery, intriguing prehistoric ruins, and a quiet, restful atmosphere away from the milling crowds.

Plan to spend at least two or three days in the Park if you wish to explore the larger and more accessible cliff dwellings. Additional days should be allowed, if possible, for horseback riding and hiking trips down trails into the canyons where practically unknown and unexplored ruins are hidden.

ARRIVAL: On arriving in Mesa Verde it is wise first to reserve hotel or cabin accommodations, or to establish your camp in the public campground. Both are convenient to the ruins and to what will be the center of your activities for the following two or three days.

GO FIRST TO THE MUSEUM: Understanding of the life and times of the cliff dwellers will add greatly to your enjoyment while in Mesa Verde. Get this background by first visiting the MUSEUM where an interesting half hour will outline the main features of the remarkable stone age civilization that flourished here a thousand years ago.

FIRST VIEW OF THE RUINS: First impressions are important. You will never forget the beauty of Spruce Tree Ruin as you first see it from the balcony of the National History Museum.

GUIDED TRIPS THROUGH THE RUINS: The Government maintains a free ranger guide service. Detailed information will be furnished at the Park entrance, Museum, or Lodge regarding the time schedule for the conducted tours through the larger and more spectacular ruins. There are several different trips and each should be made the main feature of a half day of sight-seeing. You may drive in your own car to the vicinity of the ruins or may use the automobile service provided by Spruce Tree Lodge (\$1.00 for a 2- or 3-hour round trip). If you have a camera take an ample supply of film. Field glasses are helpful for use at stops along the mesa rim where trailside exhibits, viewfinders, etc., point out more remote ruins in the canyons below and on distant walls.

PARK POINT LOOKOUT: Don't fail to view the sunset from Park Point Lookout (altitude 8572 feet). This observation station on the highest summit in Mesa Verde offers a commanding panorama of mountain and desert topography and overlooks the Four Corners country on the Navajo Reservation, the only point in the U. S. common to four states. The ranger on duty will explain how forest fires are detected and will point out scenic and scientific features of the remarkable landscape. Use your own car for this twenty-one-mile round trip.

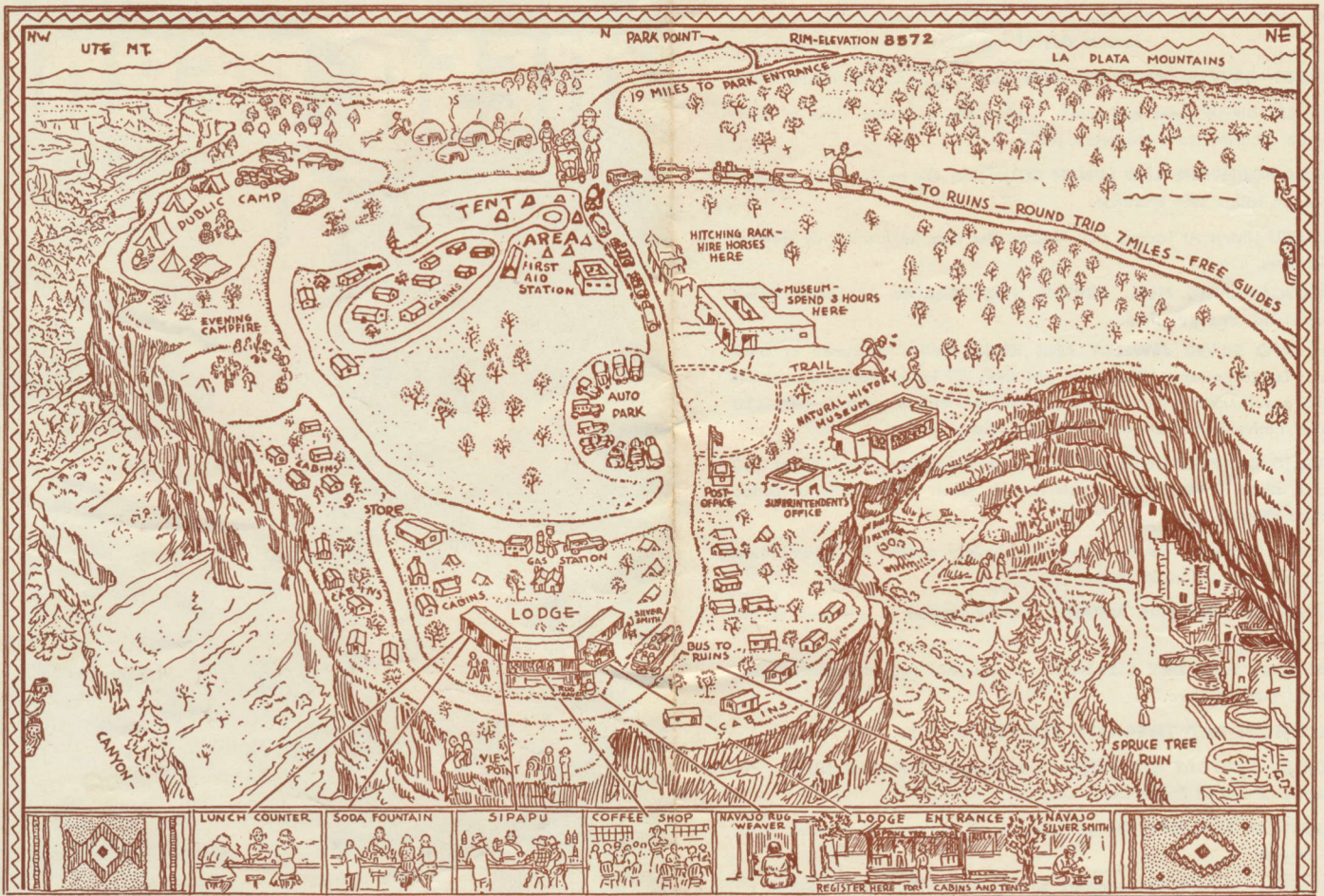
EVENING CAMPFIRE: Rangers lecture each evening at campfire circle about 100 yards north of Spruce Tree Lodge; in rainy weather at Museum auditorium. Archaeologists tell the story of the ancient people who built the great ruins of Mesa Verde and of present day Indian inhabitants of the region. Navajo dance team frequently demonstrates tribal dances and chants. No visitor should miss the experience of attending these campfire meetings which are varied each evening to provide one of the most important features of the Park educational service.

TRAIL TRIPS: There are many fine trails to tempt those with a yen for individual pioneering to explore mesa tops and canyons and to visit hidden and little-known ruins. Hikers should get free map, permit, and detailed instructions at the Museum.

HORSEBACK TRIPS: Saddle horses are available for rides on mesa top trails or longer half- and full-day trips into the canyons to remote unexcavated ruins. Arrangements can also be made for longer horseback trips to remote canyons and mountains. Obtain detailed information from cowboy guides at evening campfire, or at the hitching rack just north of the Museum; Lodge personnel will be glad to help arrange rides for guests or casual visitors.

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The above is a sample of the unique and interesting features provided by the Government for your enjoyment during the two or more days while you are exploring Mesa Verde National Park. For advice on other trips and activities, consult any ranger or make inquiry at Museum.



PICTORIAL GUIDE TO THE CENTER OF ACTIVITIES IN MESA VERDE

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING RATES, FOR THE SEASON OF 1954, ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ON PENDING GOVERNMENT APPROVAL

ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE PARK

SEASON OF 1954—MAY 15 TO OCTOBER 15

SPRUCE TREE LODGE: Lobby, Dining Room, Lunch Counter, Soda Fountain, Sipapu (Bar), and Gift Shop are in main building. Sleeping accommodations are in adjacent or nearby cabins. Room rates are as follows:

	—Two Persons—			
	Single Occupancy	Double Bed	Twin Beds	Additional Person
Room, in Tent-cabin, Hotel type furnishings and service.....	\$3.50	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$1.25
Room, small, without bath.....	3.75	5.00	6.00	1.50
Room, small, with bath.....	5.25	6.50	7.50	1.50
Room, large with bath.....	6.25	7.50	8.75	1.50

CABINS FOR HOUSEKEEPING: Register at Spruce Tree Lodge. Cabins have best modern conveniences: Hot and cold water in every room, stoves for cooking, etc. There is a convenient grocery store near the Lodge. Rates are as follows:

	—Occupancy—		Twin Beds	Additional Person
	Single	Double		
Room, large, with kitchen alcove, bathroom (shower), and hotel type furnishings, including linen*	\$4.80	\$5.25	\$5.75	\$1.50

There are 2-room cabins available, accommodating 3 to 7 persons.

*For use of dishes and pans, add 25c per person.

MEALS AND REFRESHMENTS: The Coffee Shop at the Lodge offers good meals at moderate prices. Club breakfast from 45c to \$1.40; Lunch, complete, 80c to \$1.95; Dinner, complete, \$1.50 to \$2.50.

The Lunch Counter and Soda Fountain are on the south porch of the Lodge and may be reached through the side entrance.

The Sipapu (Bar), also at the Lodge, is well hidden but may be located by diligent explorers.

MESA VERDE DIRECTORY

For locations, see "airplane view" of Park Headquarters area on reverse side of this sheet.

LODGE—CABINS—TENTS: 100 yards south of government headquarters.

MEALS: Dining room and lunch counter are at Lodge close to point where all trips start. Moderate prices.

SODA FOUNTAIN AND LUNCH COUNTER: On south porch, reached through Lodge side entrance.

SIPAPU (Bar): At Lodge; well hidden, but may be located by diligent explorers.

PHOTOGRAPHIC FILM, CURIOS, POST CARDS: At Lodge lobby, newsstand, and gift shop.

NAVAJO SILVER JEWELRY AND RUGS: Native craftsmen at work near Lodge entrance. Display in gift shop off lobby. Lodge cooperates with government in handling only authentic Indian made jewelry and other native handicraft at reasonable prices.

PUBLIC CAMPGROUND: On the rim in the 'Plaza Area' about 200 yards north of the Lodge. Meals can be taken conveniently at Lodge coffee shop or lunch counter.

STORE: Groceries, meats, vegetables, bakery goods, ice cream, soda pop, etc. Located near Lodge.

GASOLINE AND TIRE REPAIRS: Service station is adjacent to the store.

LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING: Commercial two-day service maintained through store.

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH SERVICE: At Lodge.

PUBLIC COMFORT STATIONS: In basement of Natural History Museum and also in Public Camp Ground.

FIRST AID STATION: 100 yards north of museum. Registered nurse in charge.

MUSEUM: At Park Headquarters and at center of activities. Spend an hour or two before taking guide trips to ruins.

SPRUCE TREE RUIN: The first big ruin you will see. Get first view from balcony of Natural History Museum.

GUIDED TRIPS TO RUINS: Government maintains free guide service. Use your own car or the very convenient bus service from the Lodge at \$1.00 per trip. Obtain full details about trips at Lodge or Museum.

HIKING TRIPS: Ask at Museum or consult any ranger regarding hiking trips to little known ruins.

SADDLE HORSE TRIPS: Horses may be rented by the hour or day for Mesa trails or for trips into canyons and to little known unexcavated ruins. Make inquiry at hitching rack north of Museum, at evening campfire, or at Lodge Office.

EVENING CAMPFIRE LECTURE: Campfire circle is on canyon rim 100 yards north of Lodge; in case of inclement weather, meeting is held in Museum. Rangers tell about Indians, ruins, trips, etc.

NAVAJO INDIANS: Mesa Verde is adjacent to the Navajo Reservation; many natives work here during the summer. Silversmiths and rug weavers demonstrate native arts and crafts near entrance to Lodge; no charge.

ART EXHIBIT: In Museum auditorium.