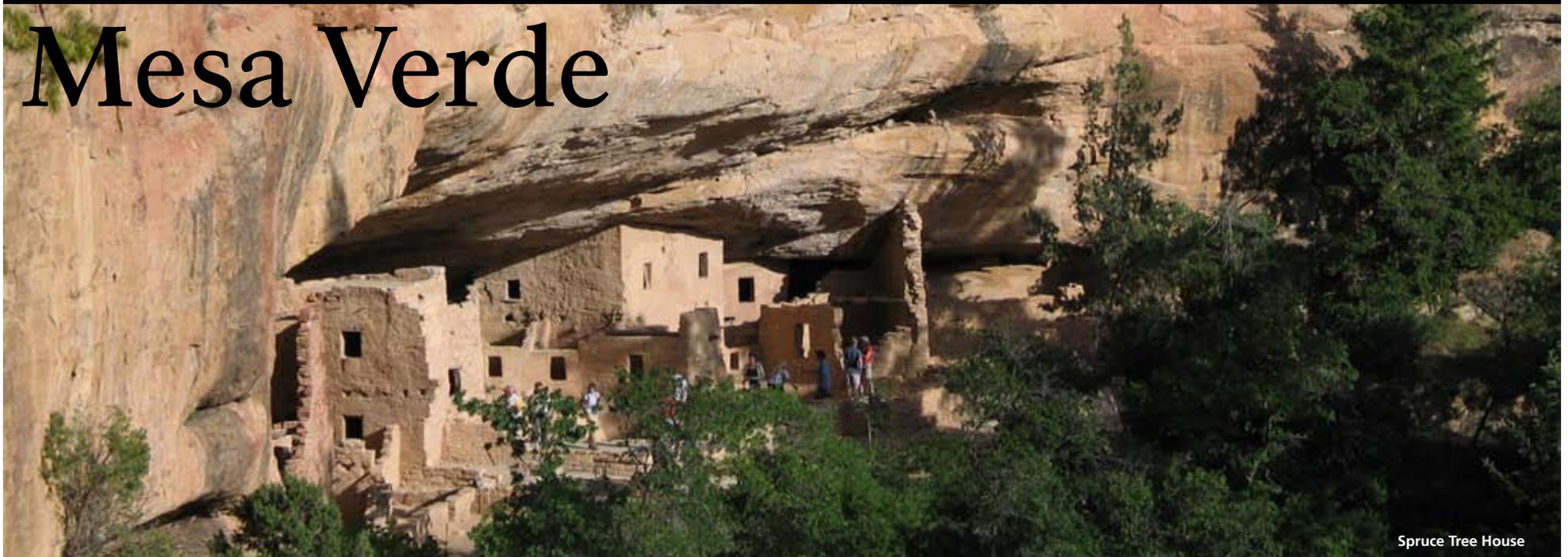




Mesa Verde



Spruce Tree House

Welcome

Welcome to Mesa Verde National Park, one of the premier archeological parks administered by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. This park is one of 15 national park units in Colorado and nearly 400 nationwide.

On June 29, 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt established Mesa Verde National Park to “preserve the works of man,” the first national park of its kind. The park administers the preservation of archeological sites and other works and relics of the Ancestral Puebloan people. In 1978 Mesa Verde received international recognition as both a World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve.

With over 52,000 acres, Mesa Verde preserves and protects over 4,500 archeological sites, including 600 cliff dwellings, and over 3 million associated objects in the research collection. These sites are some of the most notable and best preserved in the United States.

As you explore and experience Mesa Verde, we hope that you relate this place to the contemporary Puebloan peoples along the Rio Grande River, and the Laguna, Acoma and Zuni in New Mexico and the Hopi of Arizona. These Pueblo people will help you gain an understanding and appreciation for the continued diversity of both the past and present represented by Mesa Verde National Park.

What's Inside

Safety and Resource Protection	2
Ranger Programs	3
Self-Guided Activities	4-5
Food, Shopping, and Lodging	6
Bookstore	7
Ranger-Guided Cliff Dwelling Tours	8

Planning Your Visit

Mesa Verde preserves the largest number of cliff dwellings in North America. Three of these cliff dwellings are ranger-guided: Cliff Palace, Balcony House, and Long House.

Purchase the \$3.00 tour tickets at:

- Far View Visitor Center
- Morefield Ranger Station

Turn to the back page for more in depth information on touring a cliff dwelling.



If you have a 1/2 day:

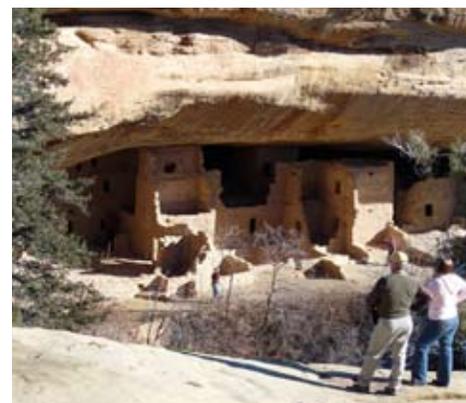
First stop is the [Far View Visitor Center](#). The Visitor Center is 15-miles (25 km) from the park entrance. Here you'll find rangers ready to answer your questions and orient you to the park. The Visitor Center also houses contemporary arts and craft exhibits and a bookstore.

Drive 5-miles south of the Far View Visitor Center to the [Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum](#). It contains exhibits and dioramas tracing the lives of the Ancestral Puebloans. Also available is a 25 minute park video shown every 1/2 hour and the Museum bookstore.

[Spruce Tree House](#), the park's best-preserved cliff dwelling, is adjacent to the Museum. Allow one hour for the 1-mile round-trip paved trail. There is a 100-foot (30 m) elevation descent and ascent. Rangers are available to answer your questions.

If you choose not to visit Spruce Tree House, you could take a scenic drive on the [Mesa Top Loop Road](#). This 6-mile,

45 minute driving tour has short, paved walking trails introducing the early occupation of the area. Highlights include views of Square Tower House and Cliff Palace.



If you have one day:

Do all the 1/2 day activities, plus while at the Far View Visitor Center purchase tickets (\$3.00 per person) for a cliff dwelling tour of either [Cliff Palace or Balcony House](#).

You could also add a self-guided tour of the [Far View Sites Complex](#).

If you have a second day: (or an alternative one day)

At the Far View Visitor Center purchase tickets (\$3.00 each) for a cliff dwelling tour of [Long House](#) on Wetherill Mesa.

The 12-mile, 45 minute drive to Wetherill Mesa offers views of the Montezuma Valley 2,000 feet below.

Include a self-guided tour of [Step House](#). Both Modified Basketmaker (AD 550-750) and Classic Pueblo (AD 1100-1300) Period architecture are on display. The trail begins near the Wetherill Mesa kiosk. Allow 45 minutes to 1 hour for the 3/4-mile round-trip 100-foot (30 m) descent and ascent along a winding path.

With a second day you could purchase tickets for all the cliff dwelling tours: [Cliff Palace, Balcony House and Long House](#).

You might also add one or more of Mesa Verde's [hiking trails](#). See pages 5-6 for trail descriptions.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mesa Verde National Park

Superintendent Larry Wiese
P.O. Box 8
Mesa Verde National Park
Mesa Verde, Colorado 81330

Web Site

www.nps.gov/meve

Park Headquarters

970-529-4465
Fax 970-529-4637
Emergency 970-529-4461

E-mail

MEVE_park_general_information@nps.gov

Lost and Found

May be reported to any ranger.

Employment Information

with the National Park Service:
www.usajobs.opm.gov

Protect Yourself, Protect the Park

By observing the rules of the park, you can have a safe and enjoyable visit plus help preserve Mesa Verde's fragile archeological sites and natural ecosystems.

Please follow these precautionary measures so that accidents and injuries are not part of your park experience.

Rocky Roads

Mesa Verde roads are built through areas of unstable geologic formations. As a result, rocks and boulders may break loose and fall onto the road posing a hazard to people and vehicles.

- Pay close attention to the slopes above you, speed around curves and all traffic signs
- Avoid rocks rolling toward your vehicle
- Do not approach fallen rocks, or attempt to move boulders from the road
- If rocks block the road call a park ranger at 970-529-4461
- Do not park on roadways; use the pullouts

Gasoline Advisory

Gasoline is only available in the Morefield Campground Village; plan accordingly.

Visiting a Cliff Dwelling Can Be Strenuous

The cliff dwellings are at 7,000 foot elevation. Please consider your physical health before hiking or going on tours.

Trails are steep and uneven, with steps and ladders to climb. Visiting cliff dwellings or hiking is not recommended for those with heart or respiratory problems. The larger cliff dwellings can be seen from roadway overlooks.

Parents-watch your children-especially at the sites and near canyon rims.

Do not throw rocks or objects into canyons; there may be people below.

Water

Carry and drink plenty of water. Water is available at all park facilities, including the Cliff Palace Overlook and the Wetherill Mesa kiosk. Water is not available at Balcony House.

Cell phones

Cell phone service is not available in the park. Though telephone booths are situated at all main visitor areas.

Park Resource Protection Regulations

Visitors must be accompanied by a park ranger to enter cliff dwellings.

Camping is permitted only in Morefield Campground.

Feeding, capturing, chasing, or teasing wildlife, and picking, cutting, or damaging plants is prohibited and can be dangerous.

Be careful with fire. One careless match can wipe out the growth of a lifetime.

Please do not sit, stand, climb, or lean on fragile archeological structures.

Pets

Pets must be physically restrained at all times; animals are not allowed in public buildings or on trails. Leaving pets unattended or tied to any object is prohibited.

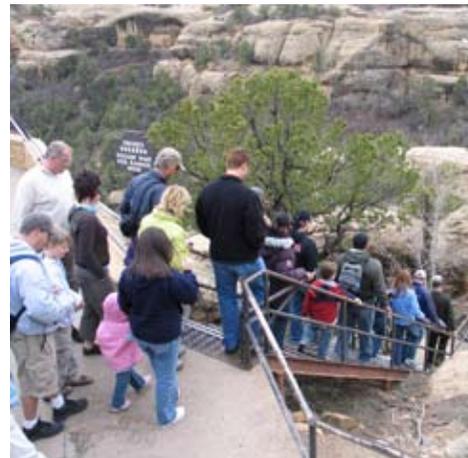
Judgment

Your safety depends on your good judgment, adequate preparation, and constant attention. Don't ruin your vacation by having an accident. Your safety is your responsibility.

**In case of an Emergency,
Contact a Park Ranger
or Call 911**



Watch the Road



Cliff Palace Trailhead



Mule Deer

Road Improvements

Mesa Verde National Park received Federal Land Highways Program projects for a total of \$14 to \$18 million. With these monies the park will resurface the park road from the entrance station to Park Point, which is about 10 miles of road. The project will also do preliminary road work near the entrance in preparation for access to the park's new Visitor and Research Center.

These projects are long-standing priorities for Mesa Verde National Park. They address the Department's highest-priority mission needs; generates the largest number of jobs in the shortest period of time; and creates lasting value for the American public.

Drivers should expect potential delays. This work will include: construction vehicles on the road hauling materials back and forth from the park entrance to the construction sites; vehicles will encounter rough and uneven road surfaces in construction areas; a pilot car leading traffic through construction sites and in some cases traffic lights will direct vehicles.

Caution is advised at all times.



Ranger Programs

Joining a ranger is a great way to learn more about Mesa Verde National Park. Visit the Far View Visitor Center and Chapin Mesa Museum for details (for cliff dwelling tours, see back page.)

Program	Times/Dates	Fee?	Description
Far View Sites Walk	4 pm daily May 24 to Sept 7	No Fee	This easy to moderate, one-mile (1.6 km) walk explores life on the mesa top. Meet at the Far View House adjacent to the Far View Sites parking area, one mile south of the Far View Visitor Center.
Morefield Campground Evening Program	9 pm nightly May 24 to Sept 7	No Fee	In 1907 Archeologist Jesse Fewkes began offering evening campfire talks near Spruce Tree House. Rangers today have continued his tradition with nightly 45 minute presentations at the Morefield Campground Amphitheater (weather permitting). Bring a flashlight.
Far View Lodge Evening Program	7:30 pm nightly May 24 to Sept 7	No Fee	Join a ranger in the Far View Lodge lower level conference room for a presentation about the park.



Far View Sites



1930's Ranger Presentation



Morefield Campground Amphitheater

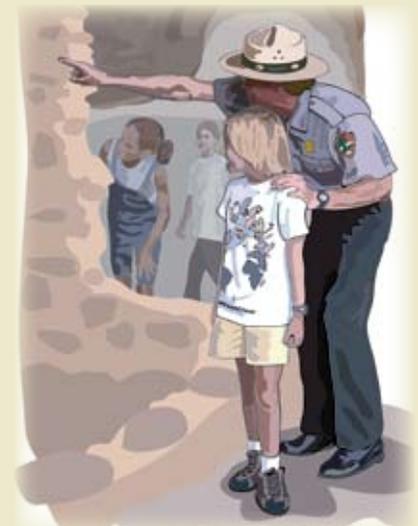


Become a Junior Ranger

Hey, kids! Become a Junior Ranger and have fun learning about Mesa Verde National Park.

Just pick up a [Junior Ranger activity booklet](#) at the Far View Visitor Center or Chapin Mesa Museum, explore the park and complete the activities for your age group. After completing the booklet, take it to any park information center for review and to receive your Mesa Verde Junior Ranger badge.

It's a great way to explore the national parks and to help take care of them for the future.



Half-Day Guided Bus Tours

Join Mesa Verde National Park Service rangers on a 700-year journey from the comfort of a 21st century bus.

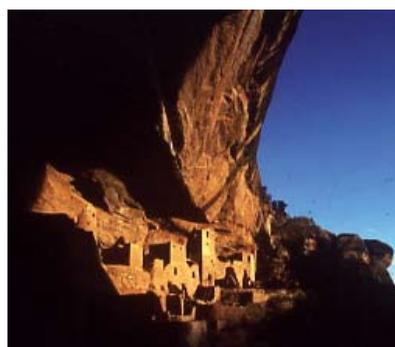
Rangers partner with the park concessionaire, ARAMARK, to conduct these tours and share current interpretation of the Ancestral Puebloan people. The 4-hour tour includes short hikes to archeological sites along the Mesa Top Loop Road and a walking tour of Cliff Palace.



Tours depart daily from Far View Terrace at 8:00 am and 1:00 pm. To purchase tickets, visit the Far View Visitor Center ARAMARK desk, Far View Lodge, or the Far View Terrace tour desk.

Tour price is \$49.00 for adults, \$38.00 for children 5-12 years of age, and children 4 and under ride free with a paying adult.

Twilight in the Palace



Join a park ranger for a 90-minute tour of Mesa Verde's most popular cliff dwelling, Cliff Palace.

The 7:00 pm tour is limited to 20 people. Tour tickets are **\$10.00 per person**. Purchase tickets at the Far View Visitor Center. Meet at the Cliff Palace overlook at 6:45 pm.

This special evening tour is sponsored by the Mesa Verde Institute, an educational program of the nonprofit Mesa Verde Museum Association.



Self-Guided Activities (no tickets required)

Chapin Mesa



Far View Sites Complex

Five Mesa Top Villages & Far View Reservoir
 Allow 45 minutes
 Open 8:00 am to sunset.



Cedar Tree Tower

Mesa Top Tower and Kiva
 Allow 15 minutes
 Open 8:00 am to sunset



Chapin Mesa Museum

Artifacts of the Ancestral Puebloans
 Allow 45 minutes to 1 hour
 • May 24 to October 17
 Open 8:00 am to 6:30 pm
 • October 18 to November 7
 Open 8:00 am to 5:00 pm



Spruce Tree House

Mesa Verde's Best-Preserved Cliff Dwelling
 Allow 45 minutes to 1 hour
 • May 24 to September 7
 Open 8:30 am to 6:30 pm
 • September 8 to October 17
 Open 9:00 am to 6:30 pm
 • October 18 to November 7
 Open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Spruce Canyon Trail

2.4 miles (3.9 km) loop
Registration is required at trailhead or Museum
 The trail branches off the Spruce Tree House Trail, and follows the bottom of Spruce Tree Canyon, turns north, climbs to the mesa top, and returns to the Museum through the picnic area.

Trail is open the same hours as the Spruce Tree House. See detail of times above.



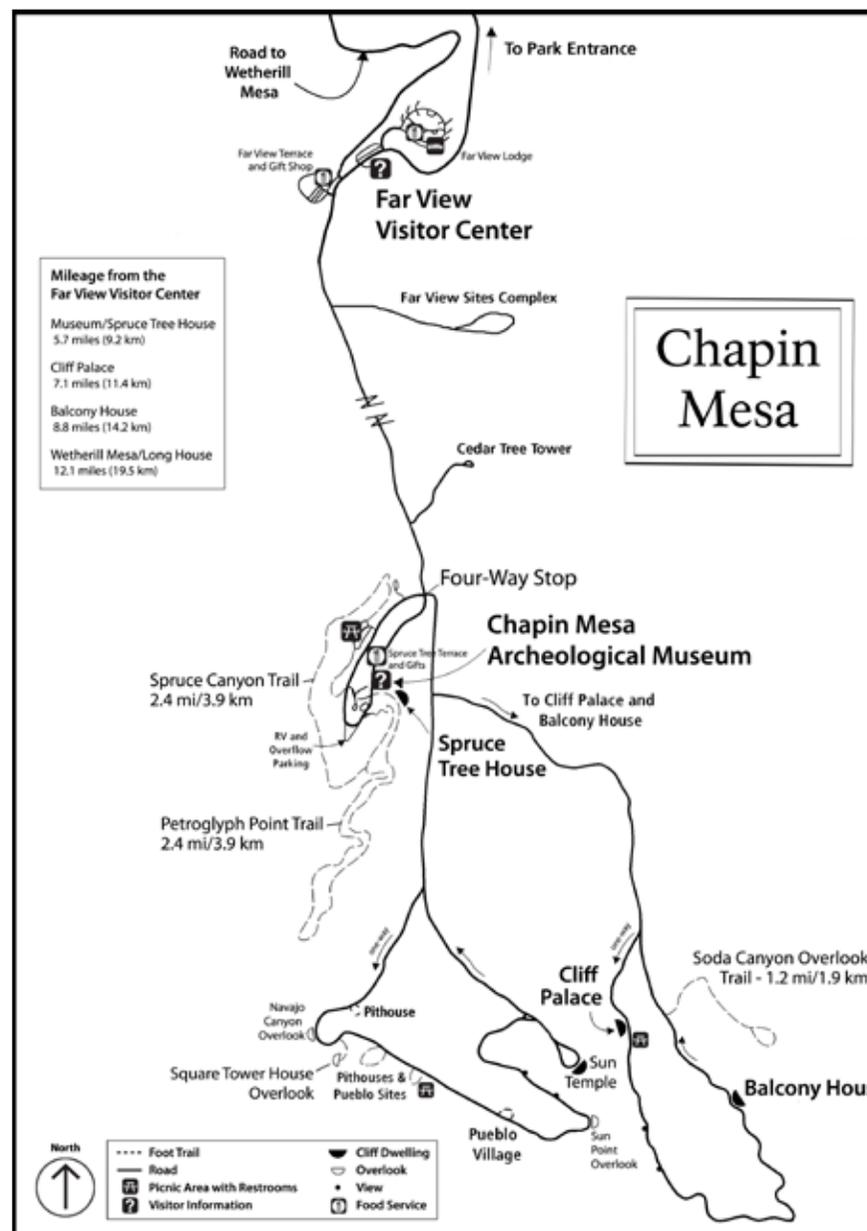
Mesa Top Loop Road

Auto Tour - 700 Years of Mesa Verde History
 Allow 45 minutes to 1 hour
 A 6-mile (10km) driving tour with short, paved trails to twelve easily-accessible archeological mesa top sites, and views of cliff dwelling.
 Open 8:00 a.m. to sunset

Petroglyph Point Loop Trail

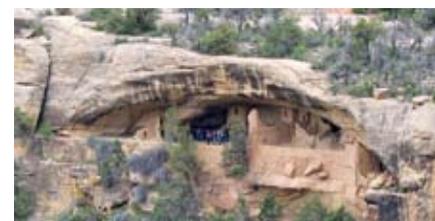
2.4 miles (3.9 km) loop
Registration is required at trailhead or Museum
 The trail branches off the Spruce Tree House Trail, and continues below the edge of the plateau to a petroglyph panel, climbs to the mesa top, and returns along the rim to the Museum.

Trail is open the same hours as the Spruce Tree House. See detail of times above.



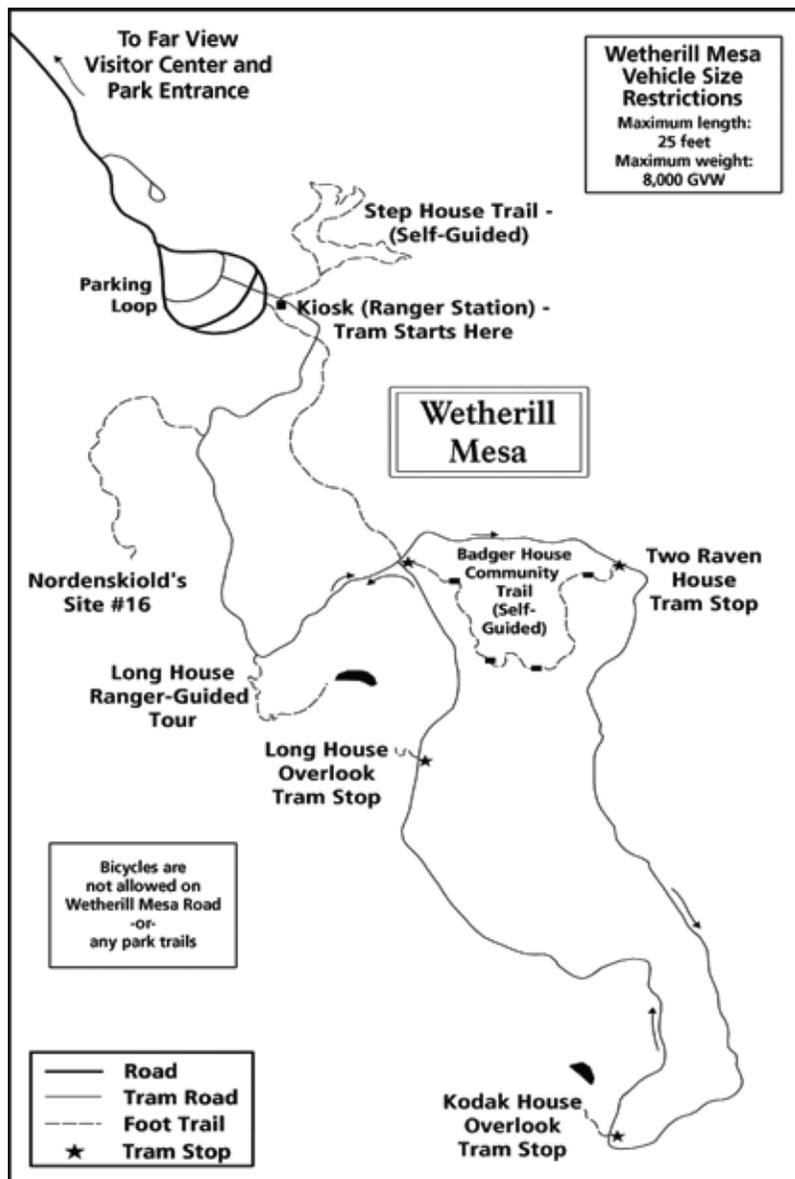
Soda Canyon Overlook Trail

1.2 miles (1.9 km) round-trip
 The trail begins one mile north of the Balcony House parking area on the Cliff Palace Loop Road. The trail is an easy walk to the canyon edge and offers views of Balcony House and other archeological sites in Soda Canyon.



Self-Guided Activities (no tickets required)

Wetherill Mesa



Wetherill Mesa Kiosk

Visitor Information and Trailhead

12-mile (19 km) drive from the Far View Visitor Center

Allow 45-minutes to 1 hour for the drive

Tram service is available from the Kiosk. Ride the tram to various Wetherill Mesa archeological sites. Long House ticket holders will be seated on tram first, then tram service is offered to others on a space-available basis. Snacks are available for purchase at the Kiosk from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Road open 9:00 am to 4:15 pm from May 24 to September 7



Step House

Pithouse, Petroglyphs and Cliff Dwelling
Total walking distance is 3/4-mile (1.3 km)

Allow 45 minutes to 1 hour

The roundtrip trail begins near the Wetherill Mesa kiosk. A 100 ft (30 m) descent and ascent on a winding path.



Badger House Community Trail

Mesa Top Sites

Total walking distance is 2.5-mile (4 km)

Allow 45 minutes to 1.5 hours

Trail begins at the Wetherill Mesa Kiosk. The combination gravel and paved trail walks you through four mesa top sites. If you prefer, take the tram to or from the Badger House tram stop and shorten the trail to 1.2-miles.

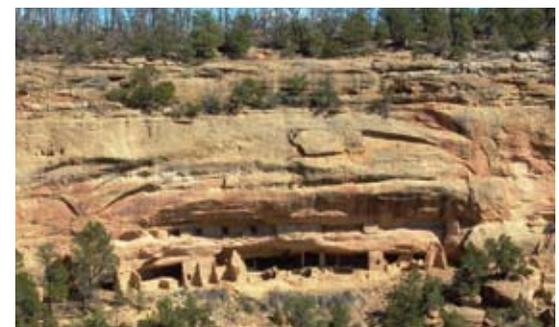
Nordenskiold #16 Trail

Cliff Dwelling View

Total walking distance is 1-mile (1.6 km)

Allow 30 minutes to 1 hour

Trail begins at the Wetherill Mesa kiosk. The moderate, round-trip gravel path through a burned area, gently climbs to an overlook of the Nordenskiold cliff dwelling.



Morefield Campground Trails

Knife Edge

2-mile (3.2 km), round-trip

Allow 45-minutes to 1 hour

Trail follows the old road alignment from the northwest corner of the Morefield Campground towards the Montezuma Valley Overlook. This trail provides good views of the Montezuma Valley and is an excellent place to watch sunsets and see wildlife. A trail guide is available.



Prater Ridge

7.8-mile (12.6 km) to complete both loops

Allow about 4 hours

Trail begins on the west end of Morefield Campground. The trail ascends the east side of Prater Ridge for 1.1 miles (1.8 km), and follows a loop around the top of the ridge, returning via the same route. For a shorter hike, follow only the north loop (3.6 miles/5.8 km) or south loop (2.4 miles/3.9 km). Changes in the landscape and views of the surround area are highlights of this trail.



Point Lookout

2.2-mile (3.5 km) round-trip

Allow about 2 hours

Trail begins on the north side of the Morefield Campground Amphitheater parking lot. The trail switchbacks up the back side of Point Lookout and follows the top of the mesa. This trail provides excellent views of both Montezuma and Mancos Valleys, as well as the surrounding countryside.



ARAMARK, Park Partner

Food, Shopping, Guided Tours, and Lodging

Concessions at Mesa Verde National Park are managed by ARAMARK–Mesa Verde National Park.

We provide lodging, retail shops, food services, campground, and guided bus tours.

(800) 449-2288, 970-529-4422 locally, or visit and book on-line at www.visitmesaverde.com



Metate Room at Far View Lodge



Kiva Room

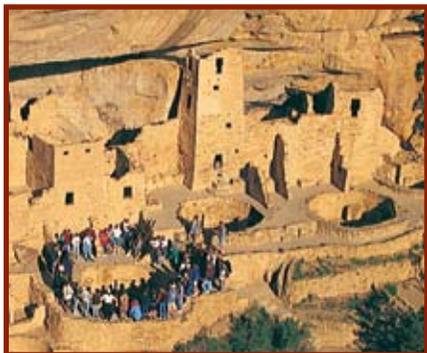


Morefield Campground Area

Morefield Campground: (CLOSES: Oct. 13, 2009)
Camp Store, Knife Edge Cafe, RV & Tent Camping, Base Camping, Showers, Laundry, and Fuel

Far View Area

Far View Lodge: Lodging, Metate Room Restaurant & La Mano Lounge, and Gift Shop. (CLOSES: Oct. 22, 2009)
Far View Terrace: 1/2 day Ranger Guided Tours, Restaurant, Mesa Mocha Espresso Bar, and Gift Shop (CLOSES: Oct. 9, 2009)



Navajo weaving at Far View Terrace

Far View Lodge



Far View Terrace



Wetherill Mesa Area

(OPEN SEASONALLY: Memorial Day through Labor Day)

Snack Shop and Information

Step House

Spruce Tree Terrace



Chapin Mesa Museum

Spruce Tree House

Cliff Palace

Balcony House

Museum & Spruce Tree House Area

Spruce Tree Terrace: (OPEN: Year-around)
Spruce Tree Terrace Café and Gift Shop



MESA VERDE
—COLORADO—



	Food service		Bar
	Campground		RV Camping
	Lodging		Gift shop
	Camper store		Escorted Tours
	Shower		Laundry
	Fuel		Major Sites



Super Retail Clearance

20-50% OFF at ALL Locations
Selected Souvenirs, Toys & Apparel

Please present coupon at purchase and only one coupon per family. EXPIRES: Oct. 9, 2009

Buy One Get One Free

Handpacked ice cream
at Mesa Mocha Espresso Bar
inside Far View Terrace Restaurant/Gift shop

Please present coupon at purchase and only one coupon per family. EXPIRES: Oct. 9, 2009



Mesa Verde Museum Association

Supporting education, interpretation, and research at Mesa Verde National Park since 1930

The nonprofit Mesa Verde Museum Association (MVMA) provides educational and interpretive materials and experiences to visitors of Mesa Verde National Park through an active publishing program, volunteer and membership opportunities, the Mesa Verde Institute, and operation of retail bookstores in the Chapin Mesa Museum, Far View Visitor Center, Wetherill Mesa Ranger Kiosk, Morefield Ranger Station, the Colorado Welcome Center on Main Street in Cortez, and online at www.mesaverde.org. Proceeds from our programs and retail sales are used to support educational, research, and interpretive programs in Mesa Verde National Park.

Help Us Help Mesa Verde!

The Mesa Verde Museum Association is teaming with the Mesa Verde Foundation (the park's nonprofit capital fundraiser) to help protect and preserve Mesa Verde National Park. Become a member and your annual dues will support the mission of both organizations. Members receive MVMA store discounts, park updates, an annual wall calendar, and more! It's easy to join us today:

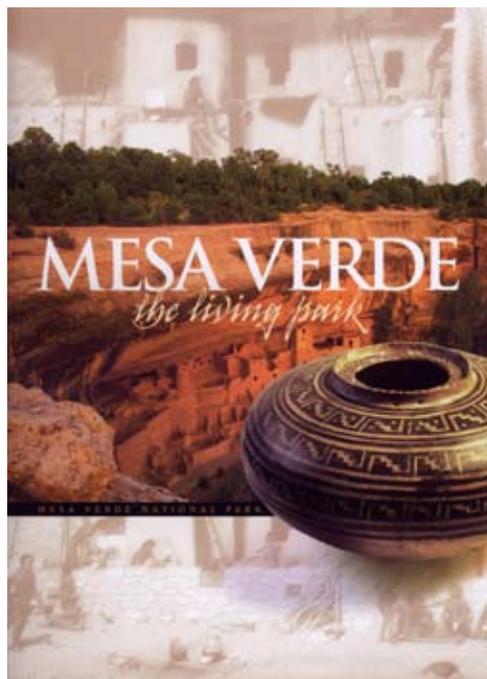
- While shopping at MVMA stores in the park and in Cortez
- By calling 970-529-4445 or 800-305-6053
- Online at www.mesaverde.org

You'll find the items shown here and many other fine educational materials for sale at our all retail bookstores:



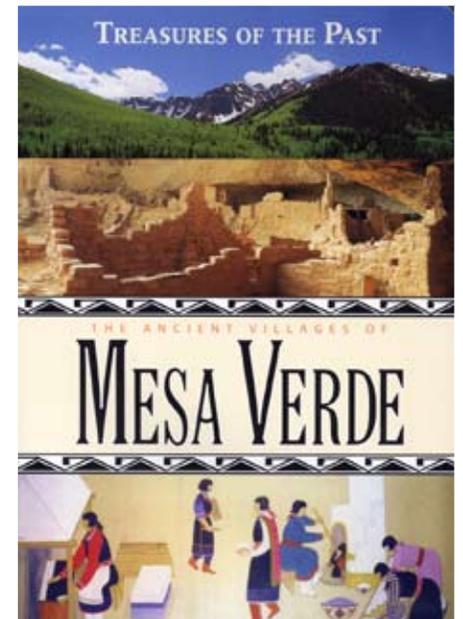
360 Degrees of Mesa Verde

This 360-degree, panoramic CD tour allows you to virtually explore areas of Cliff Palace, Balcony House, Long House and Spruce Tree House that are not open to the public. \$16.95



Mesa Verde: The Living Park

This award-winning book introduces the cultures of the Colorado Plateau that came before written history - the makeup of their societies, their hunting and farming, their art, and their most prominent legacy, the architecture of Mesa Verde. \$6.99



Treasures of the Past DVD

The mesa top villages and cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde provide a wealth of knowledge about the ancient people who lived here. Their descendants are the Pueblo Indians who live in the southwest today. Rich photography compliments narrator Raoul Trujillo, a Pueblo Indian from New Mexico, as he speaks eloquently for his people's view of their ancestral Mesa Verde home. \$9.99



Mesa Verde: The First 100 Years

In 2006, Mesa Verde National Park celebrated its first century as a national park. To commemorate this milestone, and as a timeless tribute to one of the world's great archeological treasures, the Mesa Verde Museum Association published this award-winning compendium of documents, photos, and essays tracing 100 years of Mesa Verde history. \$12.99

Mesa Verde Museum Association

10% off for new Junior Rangers

Present your new Junior Ranger badge, a completed activity booklet and this coupon at the register.

Redeemable at the Chapin Mesa Museum and Far View Visitor Center Bookstores.

Coupon is good on all regularly priced items.
Expiration Date: 10/31/2009

Tickets are Required for Ranger Guided Tours

Stop first at the Far View Visitor Center located 15-miles (25 km) from the park entrance. There park rangers will help you plan your visit.

Cliff Palace and Balcony House are popular ranger-guided cliff dwelling tours. During periods of high demand, you may be asked to choose only one of these tours per day.

A tour of Long House, located on Wetherill Mesa, can be taken on the same day as the Cliff Palace OR Balcony House tours.

Tour tickets are \$3.00 per tour, per person, regardless of age.

Purchase tour tickets at:
 •Far View Visitor Center
 •Morefield Ranger Station
 •Chapin Mesa Museum
 (ONLY from October 18 to November 7)
 For venue hours see **Visitor Services** below

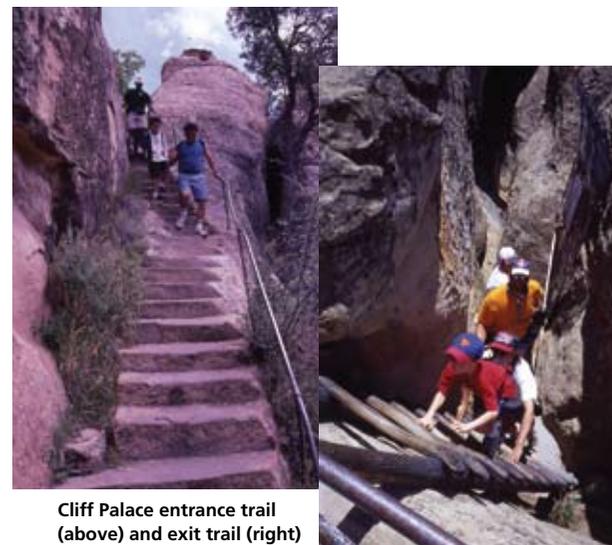


Cliff Palace

Mesa Verde's Largest Cliff Dwelling

This one-hour tour involves descending uneven stone steps and climbing five ladders for a 100ft (30m) vertical climb. Total walking distance is 1/4-mile round-trip. The tour begins at Cliff Palace Overlook, an 8-mile drive from the Visitor Center.

- May 24 to September 7
Every half-hour: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
- September 8 to October 17
Every half-hour: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- October 18 to November 7
Every hour: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- November 8: Closed for season



Cliff Palace entrance trail (above) and exit trail (right)

Balcony House

Adventurous Cliff Dwelling Tour

This one-hour tour involves climbing a 32-ft ladder, crawling through a 12 ft-long tunnel, and climbing up a 60 ft (20 m) open cliff face with stone steps and two 10 ft (3 m) ladders to exit the site. The tour begins at Balcony House, a 10-mile (16 km), 25-minute drive from the Far View Visitor Center.

- May 24 to September 7
Every half-hour: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- September 8 to October 17
Every hour: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- October 18: Closed for season



Balcony House entrance ladder



Balcony House tunnel (above) and exit trail (right)



Long House on Wetherill Mesa

Mesa Verde's Most In-Depth Tour

Starting with a tram ride to and from the trailhead, this 90-minute tour involves climbing two 15-ft (4.5 m) ladders within the site. The round trip hike is 3/4-mile (1 km), with a 130-ft (40 m) gain in elevation upon exiting. Tour begins at the Wetherill Mesa Kiosk, a 12-mile (19 km) drive from the Far View Visitor Center. Allow 45 minutes for this drive. Vehicles over 25-feet (8m) long are prohibited on this road.

- May 24 to September 7
10:00 am, 10:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 noon,
1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:00 pm, 3:30 pm and 4:00 pm
- September 8: Closed for season



Long House entrance trail (left) and one of the 15 ft ladders (right)

Visitor Services

Chapin Mesa Museum

- May 24 to October 17 8:00 am to 6:30 pm
- October 18 through winter 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Spruce Tree House - Self-guided

- May 24 to September 7 8:30 am to 6:30 pm
- September 8 to October 17 9:00 am to 6:30 pm
- October 18 to November 7 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- After November 8 Free guided tours
10:00 am, 1:00 pm and 3:30 pm

Far View Visitor Center

- May 24 to September 7 8:00 am to 7:00 pm
- September 8 to October 17 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
- October 18 Closed

Morefield Campground Ranger Station

- May 24 to early August 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm
- Early August Closed

Wetherill Mesa Kiosk

- May 24 to September 7 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Picnic Areas

- Chapin Mesa Picnic Area 8:00 am to sunset
- Cliff Palace Picnic Area 8:00 am to sunset

U.S. Postal Service

- May 24 to October 31
Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Saturdays 10:00 am to 1:45 pm
- November 1 through winter (closed Saturdays)
Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

