



Visitor Activities November 8, 2009 to March 7, 2010



Winter is a special time to visit Mesa Verde National Park. Visit the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum; join a free ranger-guided tour of Spruce Tree House; drive the Mesa Top Loop Road; and explore a variety of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking opportunities. All activities depend on weather conditions. Please check with a ranger for trail and road conditions before beginning any of the listed activities.

Winter Logistics

You can still view many of the Chapin Mesa cliff dwellings. However, due to winter road conditions, you might have to hike or ski to overlooks.

Interpretive trail and site guide booklets are available at the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum Bookstore and at sites along the Mesa Top Loop Road. For additional park information, tune your radio to AM 1610.

There are no overnight accommodations in the park. Both the Far View Lodge and Morefield Campground are closed for the winter season. Roadside camping and overnight parking are not permitted. Overnight accommodations are available in nearby communities.

Touring a Cliff Dwelling

You must be accompanied by a park ranger to enter Spruce Tree House, Mesa Verde's best preserved cliff dwelling.

[Spruce Tree House](#) is the only cliff dwelling open during the winter and is located near the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum. The 1/2-mile (1 km) winding, paved trail includes a steep 100-ft (30 m) descent and ascent. This tour is strenuous and the path can be icy. Dress warmly for this one-hour, outdoor tour. Meet the ranger at the museum five minutes before the scheduled tour. Tours are offered daily at 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:30 pm.



Visit On Your Own

Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum contains exhibits on the Ancestral Puebloan people. The museum is located 20 miles (33 km) south of the park entrance. A 25-minute park video is shown every half hour and a bookstore is located within the museum. Open 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Petroglyph Trail is located near the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum. The 2.4 mile (3.9 km) trail leads to a panel of petroglyphs. In clear weather, the trail can be hiked as a loop. However, due to ice and snow, you may be directed to access the panel via the mesa top section of the trail. Ask the ranger at the museum desk for trail conditions, and register for the hike.

Cliff Palace Loop Road is not plowed in the winter. If you would like to cross-country ski, snowshoe, or hike this six mile (10 km) loop road, park just outside the locked gate, but do not block the gate. Highlights include Cliff Palace and Soda Canyon Overlooks (view of Balcony House). Open 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, weather permitting.

Mesa Top Loop Road is a six mile (10 km) drive with short paved trails to view twelve easily accessible archeological sites, including surface sites and cliff dwelling overlooks. Highlights include Square Tower House and views of Cliff Palace from Sun Point and Sun Temple overlooks. Open 8:00 am to sunset, weather permitting.

Far View Sites Complex includes Far View House plus four other villages and a dry reservoir. Located four miles (6.4 km) north of the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, this 3/4-mile (1.2 km) trail is not plowed. Park just outside the gate, but do not block the gate. Open 8:00 am to sunset.



Visitor Services

National Park Service
1-970-529-4465
www.nps.gov/meve

Information
Chapin Mesa Museum: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Picnic Area (not snow plowed)
Chapin Mesa Picnic Area: 8:00 am to sunset

Mesa Verde Museum Association
Museum bookstore: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
1-970-529-4445 or 1-800-305-6053
www.mesaverde.org

ARAMARK, Park Partner
1-800-449-2288
www.visitmesaverde.com

Gift Store
Spruce Tree Terrace Gift Shop
11:00 am to 3:30 pm

Food
Spruce Tree Terrace Restaurant
11:00 am to 3:30 pm

U.S. Postal Service
Monday to Friday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Know the Rules of the Park

We want you to have a safe and enjoyable visit. Follow park rules not only to protect yourself but also to preserve Mesa Verde's archeological sites and natural environment.

- Archeological structures are fragile. Take care not to sit, stand, climb, or lean on walls.
- Pets can be walked along paved roads and in parking lots. Pets are not allowed on trails, in archeological sites, or in buildings. Do not leave pets unattended.
- Help us keep wildlife wild. Please do not feed, capture, or tease wildlife.



For Your Safety

In case of emergency, call 911

Road Advisory:

- Watch for snowplows
- Mind all traffic signs
- Watch for falling rocks
- Gasoline is not available in the park

High Elevation:

- Mesa Verde ranges from 7,000 feet elevation to 8,572 feet at Park Point; the air is thin and very dry. Consider your physical health BEFORE hiking or going on tours.
- Carry and DRINK plenty of water.