

# Visitor Activities

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Mesa Verde National Park



## November 3, 2013 to March 7, 2014



View of Spruce Canyon

### Welcome

Winter is a special time to visit Mesa Verde National Park and there are many activities available to help you experience this magical place. Take a step back in time by visiting the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum to see an Ancestral Puebloan turkey-feather winter boot; join a free ranger-guided tour of Spruce Tree House and experience the warmth of a kiva; drive the Mesa Top Loop Road and watch for deer making their way through the snow; or enjoy a variety of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking opportunities in the quiet winter environment.

### Winter Logistics

**All activities depend on road and weather conditions.** Please check with a ranger before beginning any of the listed activities. We recommend good hiking boots or snow boots, warm layered clothing, a hat, gloves, snacks, and water.

Guide booklets are available at the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum and at sites along the Mesa Top Loop Road. Limited food service is available at the Spruce Tree Terrace, near the museum, from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm. There is no overnight lodging in the park, but accommodations are available in nearby communities. For additional park information, tune your radio to AM 1610.

### Tour a Cliff Dwelling

[Spruce Tree House](#) is Mesa Verde's best-preserved cliff dwelling and the only cliff dwelling open during the winter. Ranger-guided tours are offered daily:

**November 3, 2013 to February 14, 2014\***

10:30 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:00 pm

**February 15 to March 7, 2014**

10:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 3:30 pm

Located near the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum, the 1/2-mile (1 km) winding, paved trail includes a steep 100-foot (30 m) descent and ascent. The trail is moderately strenuous and may be icy.

Dress warmly and meet the ranger at the museum five minutes before the tour.

\*Spruce Tree House is open daily (weather permitting) except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.



Spruce Tree House Trail

### Visitor and Research Center

[Mesa Verde National Park Visitor and Research Center](#) is located at the park entrance and serves as the park's primary facility for orienting visitors to opportunities within the park and surrounding area. It also houses a state-of-the-art research and storage facility for the park's archives and museum collection of over three million objects. This new LEED® (*Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design*) facility is an exciting and long-awaited project.

\*The Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center is open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.



Welcome Plaza, Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center



## Explore On Your Own

### [Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum and Store](#)

will help you gain insights into the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people. The museum is located 20 miles (33 km) south of the park entrance. A 25-minute park video is shown every half hour. The museum and store are open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

[Petroglyph Point 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 hike via the mesa top section of the trail, or the entire trail may be closed. Ask a ranger at the museum for trail conditions and to register for the hike.

[Mesa Top Loop Road](#) is a six-mile (10 km) drive with short paved trails to view 12 easily-accessible archeological sites, including surface sites and cliff dwelling overlooks. Highlights include views of Square Tower House and Cliff Palace. Open daily 8:00 am to sunset.

[Cliff Palace Loop Road](#) is open to cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or hiking. No vehicles are permitted after December 1.

[Far View Sites Complex](#) includes Far View House plus four other villages and a dry reservoir. Four miles (6.4 km) north of the 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.

## Winter Recreational Opportunities

Winter in Mesa Verde National Park offers a wonderful opportunity for Nordic skiing, snowshoeing and walking. Winter trails will be available once there is an appreciable amount of snow and the park has begun to groom the trails. To find out what winter trails are open, call:

**Chief Ranger's Office**  
970-529-4622

**Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum**  
970-529-4631

Ask for maps, descriptions, and trail conditions at the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum or the Visitor Center. This information is also available on the park website at [winter activities](#).



Exploring winter trails

Snowshoes are available for loan at the Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum and at the Visitor Center.

## Visitor Services

**Mesa Verde National Park**  
1-970-529-4465 [www.nps.gov/meve](http://www.nps.gov/meve)

**Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center**  
1-970-529-5037  
November 3, 2013 to March 7, 2014  
8:30 am to 4:30 pm

**Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum**  
1-970-529-4631  
November 3, 2013 to December 28, 2013  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
December 29, 2013 to March 7, 2014  
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

\*All visitor services are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

**Mesa Verde Museum Association Store**  
1-970-529-4646 [www.mesaverde.org](http://www.mesaverde.org)  
November 3, 2013 to December 28, 2013  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
December 29, 2013 to March 7, 2014  
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

**ARAMARK, Park Partner**  
1-800-449-2288 [www.visitmesaverde.com](http://www.visitmesaverde.com)

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

**Spruce Tree Terrace Café, limited menu**  
11:00 am to 3:30 pm

**U.S. Postal Service, near the museum**  
8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday

## Protect the Park

Help Mesa Verde preserve its archeological sites and natural environment for future generations.

- Please do not sit, stand, climb, or lean on fragile archeological structures.
- Pets must be leashed at all times; only service animals are allowed in public buildings or on trails.
- Do not leave pets unattended.
- Help keep wildlife wild. It is illegal to feed, capture, chase or tease wildlife.
- Camping and overnight parking is not permitted.



Mule deer

## Protect Yourself

**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 participating in any activity.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.