



## Betatakin Tour Information – 2014

**The 8:15 a.m. Betatakin tour (Tsegi Point Trail)** begins with a trail briefing in front of the Visitor Center. This is a strenuous 5 mile (8 km) round trip hike. Hiking times ranges from 4-5 hours long, which is located ¾ of a mile from the Visitor Center. Visitors may car pool to the Betatakin parking area (trail head). The trail follows an old gravel road to Tsegi Point, and then drops steeply to sandstone switchbacks 700 feet (218 meters) down into the canyon. The route then follows the Kayenta formation, backtracking into the Betatakin Canyon. Composting facilities are available at the Betatakin parking lot and at the bottom of the canyon.

**The 10:00 a.m. Betatakin tour (Aspen Trail)** begins with a briefing in the back patio of the Visitor Center; toilets are located in the front of the building. This is a 3-4 hour strenuous, 3 mile (7 km) round trip hike. The trail begins behind the stonewall outside of the back of the visitor center to the left of the Sandal Trail kiosk, this trail drops 700 feet (218 meters) down the into the Aspen forest, where the trail leads to the Cliff Dwellings of the Ancestral pueblo people of Betatakin.

At the conclusion of the tour, visitors may walk back to their vehicles at their own pace and need to stay on the designated trails at all times. The ranger will be the last person out of the canyon, ensuring that all hikers have returned safely to the visitor center.

Hikers should be in fair physical condition. We recommend people with cardiovascular or joint problems should not take part in this tour. If you feel that the hike will be too strenuous, please inform the ranger. Remember the altitude of the monument is at 7300 feet (2220 meters), which can make it difficult for those living near sea level. ***Visitors should wear sturdy hiking boots or shoes and bring two-three liters of water per person; trail snacks are optional and need to be packed out. Hiking poles are also a great recommendation.*** Temperatures can reach ten degrees warmer than the mesa tops. Summer weather can be quite variable with afternoon thunder storms, wind, and heat. Please do not underestimate the effects of heat and the need for water. We recommend you bring your own binoculars, hat, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

Fall or winter weather can vary from mild conditions to freezing temperatures, with gusty winds or deep snow. Rock fall hazards exist in the canyons as well as within the alcove unexpectedly; management has the discretion to cancel a tour at any time. Due to health and safety of all visitors and ranger, all tours will be ending outside of the alcove.

**The Time:** Please remember that the Navajo Nation, as well as Navajo National Monument, observes Mountain Daylight Savings Time beginning on March 09, 2014 through November 02, 2014 of this calendar year. We are one hour ahead of other Arizona locations such as Grand Canyon, Flagstaff, Phoenix, and the Hopi Nation. The Monument, and the Navajo Nation, is in the same time zone as Utah, Colorado and New Mexico (Four Corners Area).

**Scheduling:** Betatakin tours are free and available during the regular season, **May 25, 2014 – September 06, 2014**, with a limit of 25 people per tour. All tours to Betatakin are on a first come first serve basis, reservations are not required. Off-season will depend on weather conditions and available staffing. Please call **(928)-672-2700** to confirm when tours are available. If you represent a large group, please call in advance for possible accommodations.