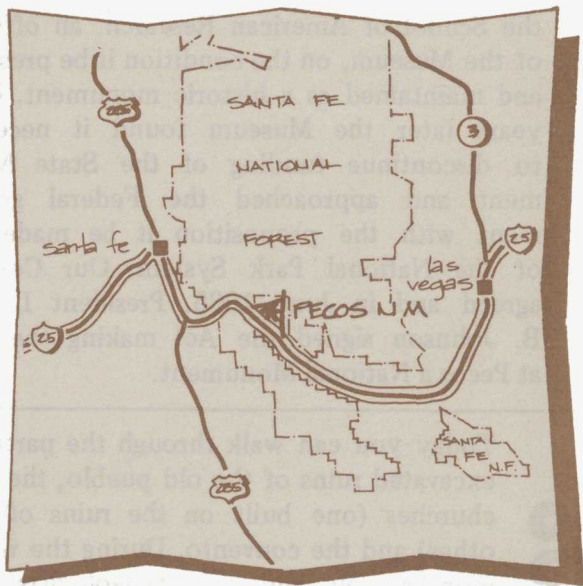


your SUPER 77 visit planner for

PECOS National Monument



have a SUPER visit

**Safely
Use
Preserve
Enjoy
this Resource**

Wagoners traveling the old Santa Fe Trail used the ruins of the Franciscan Mission Church as a landmark. The Trail lay to the west, but it signaled a turn for the last leg into the Territorial Capital. Some detoured to go through the village of Pecos and turned west just after they passed the ruin.

During the first 17 years of the Trail's history, the wagoners may have noticed a little activity, as a remnant of the original inhabitants still lived here. But in 1838 the last 17 survivors moved to Jemez, abandoning what had been a thriving community for over 500 years.

In 1921, eighty acres containing the pueblo ruin and the ruin of the old church were deeded to the Museum of New Mexico and the School of American Research, an offshoot of the Museum, on the condition it be preserved and maintained as a historic monument. Forty years later the Museum found it necessary to discontinue funding of the State Monument and approached the Federal government with the proposition it be made part of the National Park System. Our Congress agreed and in June 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Act making the ruins at Pecos a National Monument.

Today you can walk through the partially excavated ruins of the old pueblo, the two churches (one built on the ruins of the other) and the convento. During the warm months you will see archeologists and stabilization experts at work. From June through August, craftsmen demonstrate basket weaving, pottery making and baking bread in the old beehive ovens.

You should begin your walk at the small Visitor Contact Station. The path to the ruin takes you right by and it's worth the time to get the brief orientation from the Ranger on duty. After you've taken the

¾-mile tour, you will want to stop in again to have specific questions answered.

If you would study the ruins of the old church, the first ruin you come to, and compare it with the old written descriptions, you'd be puzzled. Archeologists were too — until in 1967 they discovered the foundations of another church and realized the ruins you see were not what was being described. The earlier, grande church, was completely destroyed and the second built where it had stood. Watch for the evidence of this earlier building as you stroll through these ruins.

It is also difficult, walking through the pueblo ruins, to imagine the size of this community and the activity that once took place here. Here's how Gaspar Castano de Sosa described what he saw in 1590-91:

"The houses in this pueblo are in the manner of houseblocks. They have doors to the outside all around, and the houses are back to back. The houses are four and five stories. In the galleries (covered porches) there are no doors to the streets (on the ground floor level). They go up little ladders that can be pulled up by hand through the hatchways. Every house has three or four apartments (on each story) so that from top to bottom each house has 15 or 16 rooms. The rooms are worthy of note, being well white-washed."

Unscheduled guided group tours are available from mid-May through August. If you're interested, ask at the Visitor Contact Station.

For most of the year the picturesque Pecos area is rich with recreational alternatives. Quaint, small Spanish villages whose origin may date to the 18th or 19th century dot Pecos Valley. Opportunities for fishing,

camping and backpacking are available in the Upper Valley and the Pecos Wilderness. Nearby, Santa Fe is rich in tri-cultural history.

Pecos National Monument is located in north-central New Mexico, just 2 miles west of the famous Pecos River, between Las Vegas and Santa Fe. Interstate 25 passes just south of the Monument. Two interchanges serve the Monument: visitors coming from the east should exit at the Rowe Interchange, 3 miles east of Pecos; visitors from the west use the Glorieta Interchange, 8 miles west. After leaving I-25 both routes are well marked.

Conventional overnight facilities are available in the village of Pecos, adjacent to the Monument and in Santa Fe, 25 miles west, and Las Vegas, 35 miles east.

In the Upper Pecos Valley are campsites administered by both the U.S. Forest Service and the New Mexico Game Department. Private campgrounds and trailer parks are found at San Jose, 15 miles east off I-25 and in the vicinity of Santa Fe.

There are no refreshments available at the Monument but a small picnic area is maintained for your use and convenience. The nearest restaurants are located in the village of Pecos.

Open fires are not permitted in the picnic area but you may use camp-type stoves to prepare your meal.

Pecos National Monument is at an elevation of 7,000 feet. This means that although daytime summer highs get into the 80's and 90's, the evenings are cool. July and August are the rainy months,

overnight directions

food

off-season weather
read
be safe

but our average annual rainfall totals only 15 inches.

Winter temperatures are variable, ranging from zero to the mid-40's. Snowfall is heavy at times but travel across this windy mesa country is possible during all seasons.

Peak visitation is from mid-May through August with a daily average of 200 people. About 10 to 25 people use the limited picnic facility each day.

During the off-season there are few visitors so the living history demonstrations are discontinued. But the message of the Monument is not lessened and our interpreters have more time to talk with you. We are always happy to arrange for group tours during this period, but please make your request in advance of your visit.

Colony on the Move by Schroeder and Matson \$6.72
Geology of Pecos \$6.2

Prices include tax. To order, send a check or money order made payable to the Southwest Parks and Monuments Association to Pecos National Monument, Information, P.O. Drawer 11, Pecos, NM, 87552.

There are very few hazards on the 3/4-mile trail at Pecos. Visitors should practice caution due to a few trail irregularities, an occasional prairie rattlesnake and when using the ladders into the restored kivas.

Under the 1906 Federal Antiquities Act, it is unlawful to appropriate, excavate, injure, or destroy "any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of antiquity" on Federal lands. This simply means

rules

you may look but not take artifacts or natural objects.

Ruins are fragile; do not climb or stand on them.

Pets are allowed if they are kept on a leash or in your car and out of public buildings.

The use or display of firearms is not permitted.

PARKS AND FORESTS

When you are enjoying yourself, what difference does it make if you are in a National Park or a National Forest? Both offer outstanding recreational opportunities and special facilities and services to enhance your visit.

Differences are in concept — which determines the way they are managed. National Forests are managed as renewable natural resources — timber, forage, water, wildlife. National Parks are set aside to be preserved, as they are, in perpetuity.

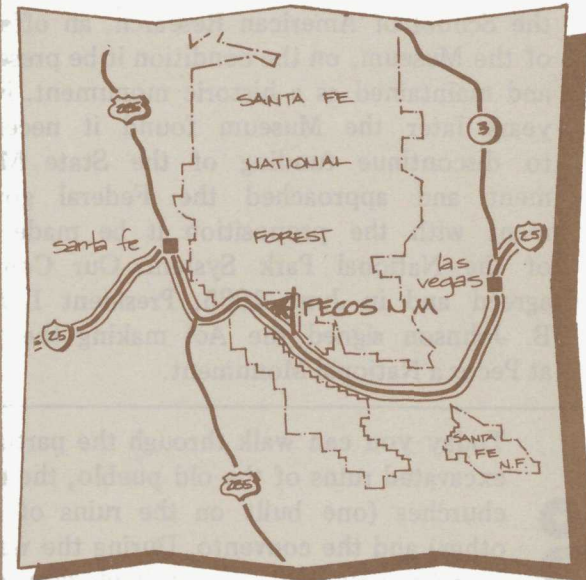
National Forests are managed for your benefit by the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The National Park Service is a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Included in the National Park System are great natural areas, as Parks, Monuments, Seashores, Lakeshores, Rivers and Riverways. The System also includes prehistoric and historic areas, as Monuments, Memorials, Memorial Parks, Historic Sites, Historical Parks, Battlefields and Battlefield Sites. "National" is generally part of their title.

National Park Service ★★★★★
U.S. Department of the Interior

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