

PEFO-503B
2/87

PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK
VISITOR INFORMATION

Eastbound travelers should enter the park at the south entrance via U.S. 180 from Holbrook, then travel north through the park exiting east I-40. Westbound travelers should use the north entrance along I-40 proceeding through the park and exit on U.S. 180 at the south gate, then to I-40 at Holbrook. The two lane park road is 28 miles in length, and winds along the rim of the Painted Desert and past two archeological areas, as well as passing among the petrified wood sites. Several hours should be allowed to adequately view the area. The road has no special provisions for bicyclists. Due to road work and traffic conditions during summer months, bicycling is not recommended.

A restaurant is available at the north entrance and a soda fountain is located near the south gate. Gasoline and diesel fuel may also be purchased at the north entrance. Availability and prices fluctuate as elsewhere. Other services are available in nearby communities.

Topographic maps and other publications on the park are available for sale through the Petrified Forest Museum Association at the park's visitors centers.

All pets must be on a leash. Pets are not permitted in the wilderness areas or in the public buildings.

Petrified Forest National Park
Weather Statistics 1973-1986

MONTH	AVE. HIGH	AVE. LOW	AVE. PRECIP.
JAN.	45	21	0.94
FEB.	53	25	0.71
MARCH	59	28	0.92
APR.	68	35	0.30
MAY	77	42	0.80
JUNE	90	52	0.21
JULY	95	60	1.07
AUG.	90	58	1.20
SEPT.	83	52	1.10
OCT.	72	39	0.90
NOV.	58	27	0.78
DEC.	49	21	0.57

AVERAGE YEARLY PRECIPITATION 9.28"

The weather in northeastern Arizona is variable and very difficult to predict. Generally you can expect cold winter days and nights; cool windy spring and fall days with cold nights; and hot summer days with cooler nights. Summer thunderstorms bring about 40% of the area's precipitation. The rest comes as rain or snow during the other months. Snow usually melts in a few hours, but may stay on the ground several days during cold spells.

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HOURS AND INFORMATION

	MAY 1 - MAY 31	JUNE 1 - LABOR DAY	LABOR DAY - SEPT 30	OCT 1 - APRIL 30
PARK	7am - 6pm	6am - 7pm	7am - 6pm	8am - 5pm
PAINTED DESERT VISITOR CENTER	7am - 6pm	6am - 7pm	7am - 6pm	8am - 5pm
RAINBOW FOREST MUSEUM	8am - 5pm	7am - 7pm	8am - 5pm	8am - 5pm

The park (and most of Arizona) remains on Mountain Standard Time throughout the year. Hours listed are subject to change due to budget variations.

THE PARK IS CLOSED AND LOCKED AT NIGHT. There are no overnight accommodations, except wilderness backpack camping. A free permit is required and must be obtained at the Painted Desert Visitor Center or Rainbow Forest Museum a minimum of one hour before the center closes. Permits are on a first-come, first-served basis.

NO COLLECTING of petrified wood, plants, animals, historic artifacts, or any other object is permitted within the park. Petrified Forest National Park is set aside to preserve and protect these wonders for all to see and enjoy. Collecting is allowed for research purposes only, and a permit is required. Permits are issued to a limited number of scientific institutions whose projects are approved in advance. The park does not collect or give out samples. Removal of petrified wood or any other object from the park is subject to fine.

TYPICAL ACTIVITIES in the park are walking, hiking, picnicking, photography, or just sightseeing. There are several short (half mile) maintained trails in the park. Crosscountry hiking is permitted. A topographical map is recommended for extended hiking and may be purchased at the visitor center or museum. A brochure on wilderness hiking and camping is also available. Hunting and off-road vehicular use are not permitted.

The area is high desert and there are no water based activities. Carrying your own water is necessary when hiking or backpacking. At least one gallon per person per day is recommended. For additional information or special considerations stop by the Visitor Center or Museum, or ask any staff member.

PARK SPONSORED ACTIVITIES vary daily so there is no pre-printed schedule. Conducted activities and special events will be posted at the visitor centers.