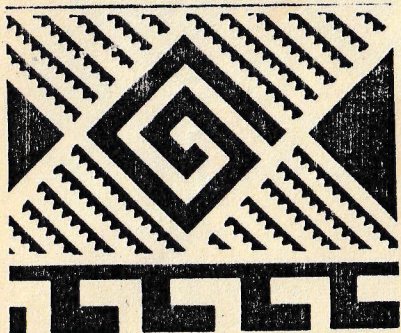
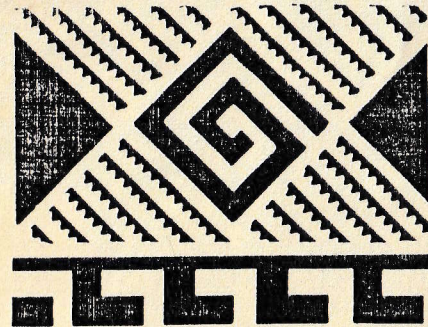


# Petrified Forest

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



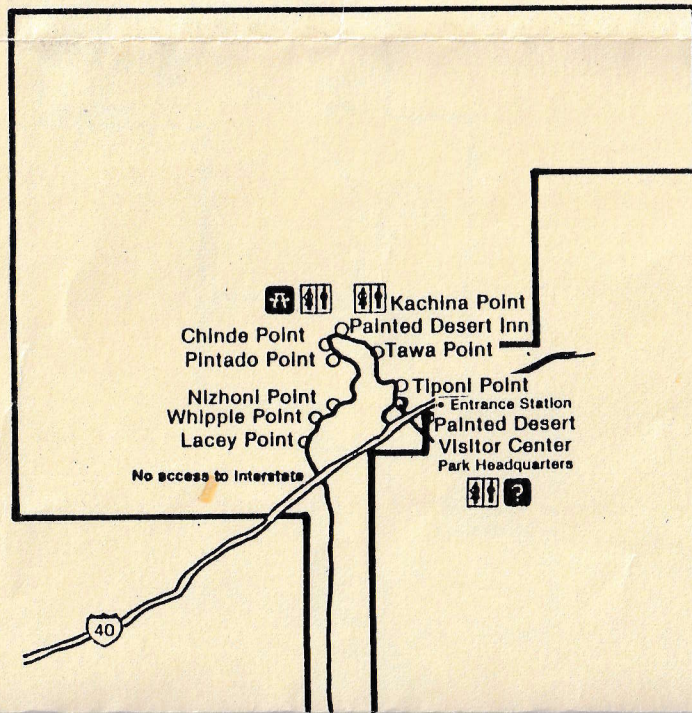
## A TRIP THROUGH PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK



This summary guide is listed for entrance at the north end of the park. If you enter from the south (off U.S. 180) read from the end to the beginning of the guide.

**TIPONI POINT**, the first stop on the Painted Desert loop is considered a real preview of the Painted Desert. An unnamed turnout and **TAWA POINT** Also provide excellent views before you reach the Painted Desert Inn at **KACHINA POINT**. The Painted Desert Inn is an historical building and no lodging is available. Some of the best views of the Painted Desert are from this Point.

**CHINDE POINT** might be a place you choose to stop for a picnic. There are sheltered tables, water and restrooms available during the summer season.



**NEWSPAPER ROCK** the huge sandstone block below this overlook is covered with petroglyphs. Telescopes are available for closeup views.

**THE TEPEES** are interestingly colored, cone-shaped hills.

**AGATE BRIDGE** is formed by a large petrified log with both ends imbedded in a ravine. (Restrooms open during summer season).

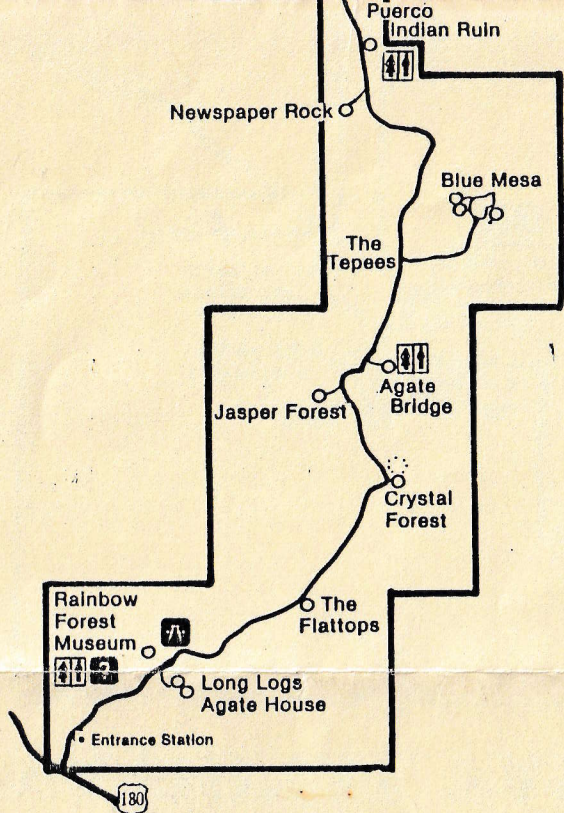
At **JASPER FOREST OVERLOOK** you will see how softer clay-like soils erode away around the harder pieces of petrified wood to form a mosaic of petrified wood on the desert floor and hills.

**CRYSTAL FOREST**, so named because of the many crystals once found there, has petrified wood visible from the road and a loop trail which leads through

**PINTADO, NIZHONI, WHIPPLE and LACEY POINTS** are all observation areas, each provides a unique view and angle of the Painted Desert.

**PUERCO INDIAN RUINS**, one of the largest ruins in the park, was occupied from approximately 1000 to 1300 AD. Built of stone and masonry walls, the pueblo was once home to a peak population of about 75 people. The ruin you see has been partially excavated and stabilized. Please stay off the walls to insure its preservation.

**BLUE MESA** is another example of erosion revealing long-buried petrified wood. A 3-mile (4.8 kilometer) loop road leads you through blue, gray and white cone-shaped hills. Many of the hills, wrinkled with erosion, have formed pedestals for large chunks of petrified wood. The ¼-mile (1.2 kilometers) Blue Mesa trail winds through areas of petrified wood chips, scattered about like the remains of an ancient woodpile.



loop trail which leads through more wood.

**FLATTOPS** is a wilderness entrance point with interesting geologic formations, petrified wood and some of the oldest ruins in the park. This small village of approximately 25 round and oval shaped "pit houses" were probably occupied from 300-600 AD.

At **LONG LOGS/AGATE HOUSE** a ½ mile (.8 kilometer) loop trail leads to some of the longest (up to 170 feet, 30 meters) petrified logs in the park. A side trail, ¼ mile (.4 kilometer) one way, leads to **AGATE HOUSE**, a small 7 room structure that date from 1150 AD.

When exiting the park, the **RAINBOW FOREST MUSEUM** will probably be your last stop (or first if entering from the south). The exhibits will provide extensive information about geology and archeology of the area.

You can also examine the giant petrified log "Old Faithful", one of the finest (and most photographed) specimens of petrified wood in the park.

